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# HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

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# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 26 November 2007*

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### EU Youth Council

**The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Beverley Hughes):** Anne Lambert (Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU) attended the Youth Council on behalf of the UK.

Ministers discussed the following issues:

*Resolution on implementing common objectives for voluntary activities of young people.*

Council adopted the resolution, noting the usefulness of volunteering for young people's social inclusion. Italy asked the Commission to propose an EU charter on volunteering. The Commission agreed on the need for new EU instruments, but did not commit to the idea of a charter. The UK has been keen to emphasise the positive impacts of voluntary activities by young people but remains opposed to the idea of a charter. We accept the need for discussions on the need for further instruments but do not want to pre-empt the outcome of these.

*Conclusions on a transversal approach to youth policy.*

Member states agreed to adopt the conclusions without discussion. These conclusions call for a more cross-cutting, mainstreaming approach to youth policy across education and employment in the context of the Lisbon agenda, particularly to help transitions into work. The UK supports this approach and has already adopted it in programmes such as "Every Child Matters/Youth Matters" as well as its National Reform Programme.

*Exchange of views on better consideration of youth issues in the implementation of the Lisbon strategy and implementing the European Youth Pact.*

The UK did not intervene in Council but circulated a paper setting out its position subsequently. This paper reiterated the UK belief that youth policy is best formulated at local level, involving all services and stakeholders, and that the Youth Pact is best implemented through the National Reform Programmes (NRPs). The paper welcomed the Commission initiative to monitor youth issues through the NRPs and report on this to the Youth Council to facilitate exchange of good practice under the Open Method of Co-ordination. However, in common with a number of other member states, the UK restated its view that there was no need for any additional youth-specific reporting requirements as existing mechanisms provided all the necessary data.

## OLYMPICS

### London 2012 Sustainability Plan

**The Minister for the Olympics (Tessa Jowell):** The London 2012 Sustainability Plan—"Towards a One Planet 2012"—will be published today, by the Olympic board.

It is an important step in realising the intention of the Government and the Olympic board key stakeholders (Minister for the Olympics, Mayor of London, British Olympic Association, and the two Olympic Delivery bodies: LOCOG and ODA) to make the Olympic park a blueprint for sustainable living, and to use the inspiration of 2012 to encourage people to live healthier, environmentally conscious lives and to support the Olympic ideals.

"Towards a One Planet 2012" aims to show progress towards achieving a sustainable Olympic and Paralympic games in each of the five main sustainability themes:

climate change;
waste;
biodiversity;
inclusion; and
healthy living.

These aspects of sustainability are closely linked and, in most cases, mutually supporting. For example, by promoting biodiversity, we may reduce the impacts of climate change; by bringing economic benefits to deprived communities, we improve their health; by re-using construction materials, we reduce their demands on the world's resources.

The plan focuses on the work being undertaken by London 2012 and the other members of the Olympic board. It sets out achievements to date, commitments made, and areas where further work is underway to determine what the games can achieve for each of the preparation, staging the games and legacy stages. Within each of these stages, the focus has been on how sustainability can be maximised and this will continue to be the focus for the Government and the Olympic board going forward.

The plan identifies areas where we intend to exceed earlier sustainability targets, such as by ensuring that the 4000 new homes in the Olympic village will be at least 44 per cent. more energy efficient than 2006 Building Regulations, where the ODA's initial target was to make the homes in the Olympic village 25 per cent. more energy efficient than 2006 Building Regulations.

The plan is open about the limits and constraints on what can be achieved, such as for the treatment of waste during and after the games, which will depend on the provision of facilities and technologies that are not yet in place. Where this is the case, the plan signals the intentions of London 2012, and sets out the developments that need to be in place to make an intention a reality.

The London 2012 programme is fast-moving and the intention is for the plan to be updated annually to reflect progress in achieving existing goals, to review those and to set new ones to address new issues that emerge.

I am placing copies of the plan in the Library and I will place copies of the annual updates in the Library when these are available.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (Uganda)

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown):** The biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) took place in Kampala, from 23 to 25 November. Her

Majesty the Queen attended the meeting in her role as Head of the Commonwealth. This was Her Majesty the Queen's 18th CHOGM, and I—like my fellow Commonwealth leaders—pay tribute to her dedication and commitment to the Commonwealth.

The meeting came at a critical moment: in the midst of the democratic crisis in Pakistan; one week before the Bali climate change conference with only 10 to 15 years to turn the tide on global warming; half way to the millennium development goals which the world is in danger of not meeting; with months left to agree a global trade deal; and with no room for complacency in the fight against extremism.

And as a unique partnership of rich and poor countries, the Commonwealth has a critical role to play in meeting these challenges.

Commonwealth leaders met in the aftermath of President Musharraf's decision on 3 November to declare a state of emergency. On 12 November the Commonwealth Ministers' Action Group (CMAG) set out five conditions for Pakistan to fulfil in order to avoid suspension from the Commonwealth: lifting the state of emergency; the president giving up his job as chief of staff of the army; holding free and fair elections; releasing political detainees incarcerated during the emergency; and removing restrictions on the freedom of the press. Meeting in Kampala on the eve of CHOGM, CMAG concluded that whilst progress had been made—not least the commitment to an election that has been announced for 8 January—the five conditions had not been met and, crucially, the state of emergency was still in place. Therefore Pakistan was suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth.

The CHOGM and the UK made clear that we hope to see Pakistan restored to the Commonwealth as soon as possible and will revisit the suspension in January once the election has taken place.

The Commonwealth has sent the strongest signal that, above all, it stands for democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The meeting also agreed with the need to act collectively to:

redouble their efforts to deliver education for all, with a particular focus on enrolling the 30 million primary school aged children out of school across the Commonwealth; eliminating gender disparity in education; and strengthening education systems in countries affected by conflict. At Britain's initiative, heads also undertook to put in place, by the end of 2008, at least 20 long-term education plans of the type endorsed by the Education for All Fast Track Initiative, and to focus on measuring and improving the quality of education;

achieve a successful conclusion to the WTO's negotiations, in light of the fundamental contribution of international trade to global prosperity, sustainable development and to the elimination of poverty;

establish a small group of Commonwealth Heads to campaign for reform of international institutions, in order to achieve an architecture which reflects today's global challenges and is more effective and more representative;

meet the Millennium Development Goals—the responsibility of all countries rich and poor—and called for a UN meeting next year to re-energise global efforts; and,

achieve a declaration on climate change, as we move towards the Bali summit, by calling for a long term global goal for emissions reduction to which all countries must contribute—a comprehensive post-2012 global agreement that strengthens, broadens and deepens current arrangements and leads to reduced emissions of global greenhouse gasses. We agreed on the need for all Commonwealth members to assess the implications of climate change for their societies, and offered new technical assistance through the Commonwealth to help achieve this.

CHOGM also endorsed the analysis by the Commission on Respect and Understanding led by Nobel Prize Winner Amartya Sen on how to promote respect and understanding among different ethnic and faith groups. The meeting recognised that all countries must work together to tackle the causes of radicalisation and noted that the diversity of its members gives the Commonwealth a unique perspective on these issues. Heads of Government committed to developing concrete activities to give practical effect to the Commission's recommendations.

We also applauded the work of Don McKinnon, outgoing Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, who has led the organisation with energy and creativity and welcomed his successor, Mr. Sharma.

I am confident that, following the Kampala CHOGM, the Commonwealth can continue to play a vital role in international affairs.

Copies of the concluding communiqué have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## TRANSPORT

### Crossrail

**The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly):** I am today placing in the House Library a copy of the "Heads of Terms for Crossrail" that has been agreed between the Department for Transport and Transport for London. Having passed through the necessary approval processes, this document has now been signed and is being released into the public domain accordingly.

The "Heads of Terms" details the agreements between DfT and TfL that underpinned last month's announcement on the funding of Crossrail. It sets out, with only those redactions necessary to prevent harm to commercial interests, the agreements that have been reached between DfT and TfL on the future funding and governance of the Crossrail project. I have also put in the Library a shorter explanatory note for the "Heads of Terms"—this sets out the main points, but should not by itself be treated as comprehensive.

As the Chancellor explained in his pre-Budget report, DfT will contribute over £5 billion in grants to the cost of the project. It will additionally be responsible for procuring contributions from the City Corporation and BAA. In total, DfT will be responsible for securing funding for Crossrail of £5.6 billion.

The Mayor, through TfL and GLA, will be responsible for total funding of up to £7.7 billion. He has indicated that he would raise this from a combination of debt raised on the back of a new levy on National Non-Domestic Rates in London, TfL prudential borrowing, developer contributions along the Crossrail route and other sources. A letter from the Mayor setting out how he envisages doing so is also being placed in the House Library. For TfL to raise this funding, there will need to be changes

to existing legislation—both to allow the NNDR levy and to facilitate the planned contribution from developers through a new planning charge. As CLG ministers have already announced, these changes will be brought forward in due course.

DfT and TfL will remain as co-sponsors of the Crossrail project, jointly specifying the outputs that the project is expected to deliver. This reflects the very substantial financial contributions that both will make. A new joint high-level sponsor board will be established between DfT and TfL to act as the single client to supervise CLRL's delivery of the sponsors' requirements for Crossrail.

The Crossrail delivery company Cross London Rail Links will also be restructured. It will become a 100 per cent. owned TfL subsidiary, but one with the level of autonomy necessary if it is to focus solely on the delivery of the Crossrail project, in line with the sponsors' requirements. The successful delivery of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link has demonstrated the importance of this single focus. Importantly, CLRL's board will include a majority of non-executive directors, bringing with them added experience of how best to manage risk on projects of this scale.

As the "Heads of Terms" set out, the current intention is that TfL should be responsible for procuring the Crossrail rail services, but DfT will be closely involved in detailed service and timetable planning so as to ensure that proper account is given to interests both inside and outside of London.

DfT will also retain significant rights during construction, including the right to consent to the identity of any new chairman of CLRL, to nominate a non-executive director, and to appoint a project representative to monitor delivery of the project. These rights are similar to those that DfT had on the successful delivery of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

We are confident that the identified capital budget for the project of £15.9 billion will be sufficient. Ultimately, however, if TfL's ability to take risk on Crossrail should be exhausted or if it should default on its agreements with DfT more widely, then DfT will be able to take CLRL back into its direct ownership.

Over the coming months, DfT, TfL and CLRL will work to turn the heads of terms into full and binding agreements, with the aim of having these in place by the time that the Crossrail Bill achieves Royal Assent. This should allow construction to begin in earnest in 2010, with the first services following in 2017.

## WALES

### National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) Order

**The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain):** I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed draft National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) Order in the field of Social Welfare has been laid today, as Command Paper (7286). Copies of it can be found in the Vote Office and Library from 12 noon. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Next Steps to Full Employment

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain):** Over the last decade huge progress has been made in reversing entrenched unemployment, child poverty and benefit dependency with the creation of 2.8 million new jobs and one million people off key out-of-work benefits since 1997. But we are not prepared to rest there. We want a society in which every city, town and village in Britain is a working community.

There are still too many people who are not sharing in the rising prosperity of the nation. The ability to get, and keep a job and then to progress in work is the best route out of poverty. The Government will provide increasing support and opportunity to ensure that our people have the skills to keep them in work and make them better off.

To do that we need to do still more to help disabled people and those with health conditions, lone parents and long term unemployed people get into rewarding and sustainable jobs.

That means a stronger framework of rights and responsibilities for benefit claimants so that people who can work have the right support to enable them to do so.

It means making the support available more responsive to the needs of individuals and employers.

It means a new emphasis on skills so that there is a focus on retention and progression, not just job entry.

Today my Department and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills are setting out how we will bring progressive welfare and skills provision together. Copies of our joint publication "Opportunity, Employment and Progression: Making Skills Work" will be laid later today and will then be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

We are clear that in future, good training to develop the skills that employers want has to be a central part of helping people into jobs, and helping people stay in jobs. Our goal is sustainable employment, not cycling between short term work and repeated spells on benefit. We want to support progression in work as well as entry to work. That has major implications for the way the training system supports those who need to gain new skills and qualifications. The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills will be setting out these implications more fully in a statement today.

Helping people into work is a key challenge. But it is only the start.

We must unlock the talents and skills of our people to equip them to compete in the globalised world and earn more for their families.

Otherwise we will not improve social cohesion or provide the skills that British businesses need to succeed in the 21st century.

There are also major new policy developments that fall to the Department for Work and Pensions. New claimants of out-of-work benefits will go through a systematic skills screening process to identify basic numeracy, literacy or language needs. Those identified with skills needs which are a major barrier to finding

employment will be referred to attend a full skills health check, delivered by the new adult advancement and careers service. For claimants reaching six months on jobseeker's allowance or the new employment and support allowance, we will enable personal advisers to mandate a skills health check if appropriate.

Based on the results of a skills health check, the personal adviser will decide whether the claimant should be referred to training focused on getting them back to work. We will pilot making such training mandatory for claimants who reach the six month point on jobseeker's allowance.

At present lone parents lose eligibility for income support when their youngest child turns 16, however we have been consulting on whether this age should be lowered. To ensure that all lone parents are making the preparations needed to engage with mandatory jobsearch at this point, we will encourage them to undergo a skills health check two years before their eligibility for income support is due to end. And we intend to consult on whether this should be mandatory.

Currently benefit rules prevent jobseeker's allowance customers from studying for more than 16 hours per week, for more than two weeks per year. In the future, we will enable customers who have been claiming JSA for six months or more to undertake full time training for up to eight weeks, provided that the training is focused on a return to work—by moving them onto training allowances. We will also remove the so-called '16-hour rule' in housing benefit for short-term recipients of incapacity benefit.

And because we recognise the particular challenges faced by some vulnerable groups who require housing benefit whilst undertaking necessary full-time training, we will consider whether it might be practicable to define limited exemptions from the '16-hour rule' for specific groups—such as young people living in supported accommodation.

We will roll out two elements of the current employment retention and advancement pilot nationally for lone parents:

in-work advisory support from Jobcentre Plus to help customers with the transition to work and to help them advance in work; and

the In-work Emergency Fund which gives lone parents moving into work of 16 hours or more per week, access to discretionary payments (up to £300) to avert financial emergencies that might otherwise prevent them continuing in work.

My Department is currently rolling out the Pathways to Work programme for new claimants of incapacity benefit, and next year will be introducing the new employment and support allowance. Today I am also announcing that we will gradually roll out pathways support to existing incapacity benefit claimants who are aged under 25.

Through tax credits, in-work credits and the minimum wage, this Government have already done a great deal to make work pay. We now intend to go further, to ensure that long-term benefit claimants moving into work see an increase in their income of at least £25 per week—thereby making allowance for reasonable travel costs.

These measures will play an important part in the next radical phase of welfare reform which will open up unprecedented opportunities for disadvantaged groups to contribute to and to benefit from national prosperity. Tomorrow I intend to publish further details on how we will work with the private and third sectors to deliver this vision.

There are over 600,000 job vacancies in Britain every day. Our mission is to get British benefit claimants into British jobs to become British workers.

A copy of the Prime Minister's speech delivered today to the CBI will be available at: www.number-10.gov.uk

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 27 November 2007*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### EU Cohesion Policy

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** In the Fourth Cohesion Report, published on 30 May 2007, the European Commission assesses the impact of cohesion policy at community, national and regional levels in the European Union. The report also identifies a range of challenges that cohesion policy may be confronted with in the coming years and puts forward a set of questions for consultation. The consultation was formally launched at the Fourth Cohesion Forum in Brussels, held on the 27-28 September 2007, which I attended, and will close on 31 January 2008.

Cohesion policy is supported by actions at EU, national, regional and local levels. The consultation is not therefore solely about the Structural and Cohesion Funds (SCFs) which have new objectives for the 2007-13 period.

The SCFs are, however, a significant part of the EC budget, on which the Commission has recently published a Communication: "Reforming the Budget, Changing Europe", also for public consultation, to prepare for the Budget review in 2008-09. According to the Communication, the Commission's approach is one of openness and with nothing ruled in and nothing ruled out: it will prepare this review with no preconceptions and encourages all interested parties to contribute to the consultation.

The Government are considering their approach both to the Commission's consultation on the future of cohesion policy and to the budget review process.

In considering the Cohesion report the Government will be looking at:

The aims of Cohesion policy.

The most efficient mechanisms for achieving these aims

The Government's view on the EC budget is that it should be reformed so that the EU is better equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Its approach is set out in the recent publication "Global Europe: Meeting the Economic and Security Challenges, October 2007" publication. This identifies budgetary reform as one of the priority areas for EU action and sets out the three principles that will guide the Government's approach when considering how to achieve budgetary reform. Based on these principles, a priority for reform in the future will be

"a significant increase in the percentage of Structural and Cohesion Funds (SCFs) spent on poorer Member States".

This is consistent with the policy direction set out in the Government's March 2003 publication "A modern regional policy for the United Kingdom".

The Government encourage interested parties in the UK to respond directly to the Commission on the Cohesion report. We would also be interested in their views.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### ContactPoint: Funding and Implementation

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan):** I am announcing today levels of funding to local authorities to support the implementation of ContactPoint and providing an update on the implementation timetable.

Some £40 million will be made available to support local implementation until March 2009, made up of the following elements:

£27 million to local authorities in England, from April 2008 to March 2009, to support implementation.

£1 million from April 2008 to March 2009 to support national partners' ContactPoint implementation projects.

A further £12 million, from January 2008 made available to lead organisations to support modifications to case management systems. This will enable the main existing systems to provide data to ContactPoint and/or for authorised users to be able to have one-way access to ContactPoint via those systems.

We have also provided indicative funding allocations to local authorities for future years: £27 million in 2009-10 and £15 million in 2010-11. My officials will write to local authorities and national partners today to inform local authorities and other partners about this funding.

ContactPoint is a key element of the "Every Child Matters" programme to transform children's services by supporting more effective prevention and early intervention. Its goal is to improve outcomes and the experience of public services for all children, young people and families. ContactPoint will provide a tool to support better communication among practitioners across education, health, social care and youth offending. It will provide a quick way for those practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child or young person.

ContactPoint will be a simple basic online tool containing:

minimal identifying information for each child; name, address, date of birth, gender, and contact details for parents or carers. Each child will also have a unique identifying number;

contact details for the child's educational setting and GP practice and for other practitioners or services working with them; and

an indication as to whether a service or practitioner holds an assessment under the Common Assessment Framework or whether they are a lead professional for that child.

No case information will be held on ContactPoint.

ContactPoint is being developed with extensive input from a wide range of stakeholders. These include:

delivery partners—local authorities and national partners (for example, voluntary and community sector organisations);

practitioners and managers from across children's services, and bodies that represent them; and

children, young people and parents and carers.

Over the last few months we have been considering the substantial stakeholder feedback we have received and looked at the implications that the resulting proposed changes could have on the system. It is clear from the considerable work we have done so far that we will need more time than we originally planned to address the changes to ContactPoint which potential system users suggested.

The change to the timetable will mean that deployment of ContactPoint to the 'Early Adopters' local authorities and national partners will be in September or October 2008. It will be deployed to all other local authorities and national partners in 2009, between January and May, depending on final deployment slots. The additional time available presents a number of opportunities to do more work in the period prior to ContactPoint deployment that will help to realise some benefits earlier. The fundamental design of ContactPoint will not change; the alterations will make sure the system works even more effectively for users and improves the ability of local authority ContactPoint teams to manage user access.

The news on Tuesday 20 November of the loss of large volumes of child benefit data from HMRC has raised questions about the safety of large scale personal data in other Government systems, including ContactPoint. ContactPoint will not contain any financial information (such as bank details) or case information (such as case notes, assessments, medical records, exam results or subjective observations).

On Tuesday 20 November, the Department conducted an assessment of how personal data are stored and protected in the Department. As a result of that assessment, I am confident that we have very robust procedures in place. On Wednesday 21 November, the Prime Minister confirmed this approach when he asked all Departments to check their procedures for the storage and use of data. In light of the security breach at the HMRC, we are continuing to check our procedures to ensure standards are as high as they can be. To this end, on 20 November, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families decided to commission an independent assessment of its security procedures. This will be undertaken by Deloitte. Delaying the implementation of ContactPoint will enable the independent assessment of security procedures to take place as well as address the changes to ContactPoint that potential system users have told us they need.

Delivery partners will receive further information early in the new year. In the meantime, progress will be reported to local project managers regularly through their ContactPoint implementation co-ordinators. They will work with individual authorities and national partners to agree new deployment slots as soon as it is possible to do so.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Planning Reform

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears):** In the white paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future", published on 21 May 2007, we set out a wide-ranging package of proposals for reform of the planning system.

Planning is critical to protecting the countryside and our environment, building sustainable homes and communities, and supporting growth and prosperity. It also plays a vital role in ensuring individuals and local communities have a say in what gets built.

Since 1997 we have made major improvements to town and country planning: more houses are being built, with better use of brownfield land; more development in town centres is helping to revitalise our towns and cities; planning decisions are being made quicker; and we have made the system more efficient and customer focused.

But significant problems remain. The planning system remains too complex, bureaucratic and inefficient. These problems are particularly acute for major infrastructure projects, which are subject to different planning regimes. Currently a single project may require consent under numerous different regimes. Lack of clarity in national policy, poor preparation of specific project proposals, lengthy and adversarial inquiry processes and slow decision-making mean that some planning decisions have taken years.

These delays, combined with the lack of certainty in the system, can result in high costs for business; prolonged uncertainty and blight for communities; and pose a serious threat to UK competitiveness, growth and jobs. Moreover delays in the provision of essential infrastructure needed to ensure clean, secure energy and water supplies and decent transport have quality of life implications for everyone.

We need to ensure that the planning system enables us to meet the long-term challenges we face as a society:

- to meet our climate change objectives by speeding up the shift to renewable and low carbon energy, supporting the development of low and zero carbon homes and businesses; and ensuring development is resilient to the impacts of climate change;
- to achieve our target of 3 million new homes by 2020 so current and future generations have access to a decent home at a price they can afford;
- to enable us to meet the challenge of globalisation by being efficient and responsive to business needs; and supporting the development of vital infrastructure, such as ports, roads and airports, needed to ensure that the UK continues to attract investment and jobs;
- to provide certainty for investment in new infrastructure such as power stations, gas storage facilities and electricity networks need to ensure energy supplies are secure.

Our proposals for planning reform are a central part of the Government's wider agenda for addressing these long term challenges in a way which demonstrates our commitment to achieving a prosperous economy and high quality of life for all; while also reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment.

The White Paper proposed that we should establish a new, single consent regime for nationally significant transport, energy, water and waste infrastructure projects under which:

- The Government will set out in national policy statements the case for nationally significant infrastructure, integrating social, economic and environmental policies. These statements will be subject to thorough public consultation, appraisal of sustainability and parliamentary scrutiny;
- Developers will be required to consult local communities and other key stakeholders as they prepare those projects and before they submit an application;

Decisions on applications will be made by an independent Infrastructure Planning Commission using streamlined inquiry procedures. Inquiries and decisions would be subject to statutory timetables.

Responses to the White Paper have indicated that there is clear agreement that the current system is not working effectively. Our proposals have been widely welcomed including by business and many in the planning community and local government.

However a number of issues and concerns have been raised. Questions have arisen in particular about:

how we propose to take forward the proposals for national policy statements;

the need to ensure sustainable development is central to the new regime;

ensuring people can influence and participate in policy and decisions;

ensuring decisions are fair and accountable.

The proposal to produce national policy statements for major infrastructure sectors has been welcomed by the large majority of respondents to the White Paper. Over the forthcoming months, my colleagues the Secretaries of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, for Transport, and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will set out further details of how they propose to ensure national policy in their infrastructure sectors is clearly set out; a short summary of proposals is at Annex A.

We acknowledge that it is essential to ensure that our objectives in relation to sustainable development are central to consideration of future infrastructure needs. The Bill will therefore include a duty on Ministers to ensure that national policy statements are drawn up with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. We will also make it a requirement that all national policy statements should be subject to an appropriate appraisal of the sustainability of the policy they set out.

The Bill will also put effective public consultation and participation at the heart of all three key stages in the regime:

By creating a clear duty to ensure effective public consultation on national policy statements. We intend that this consultation should include positive and proactive means of engaging citizens and communities. Where national policy statements identify locations or potential locations for development, there will be a duty to consult in those locations.

By placing clear legal obligations on developers to consult local communities before they submit a planning application, and ensure that this consultation is of high quality.

By making planning inquiries accessible and ensuring peoples' rights to be heard are protected. In particular the Bill will make it clear that any person who registers an interest can give oral evidence at relevant stages of the inquiry.

In order to support more effective engagement with communities and hard-to-reach groups, we will be increasing the resources we provide to bodies that promote community engagement in planning. We also intend that local authorities should have an important role in ensuring the views of the communities they represent are fully reflected.

Finally, the Bill will strengthen accountability and ensure decision-making is fair and transparent:

Government Ministers will be clearly accountable for setting overall policy. There will be a clear distinction between responsibility for setting policy, and responsibility for the quasi-judicial decisions;

Parliament will have a stronger role in scrutinising national policy.

The Infrastructure Planning Commission will be required to take decisions within a clear framework of legal duties set by Parliament and policy set by Government. It will also be subject to requirements designed to ensure full accountability to Ministers, Parliament and the public.

To provide the stronger role for Parliament, we encourage the House to establish a new Select Committee with the main purpose of holding inquiries into draft national policy statements in parallel with public consultation. We suggest that this Committee should be composed of members from existing Select Committees on Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, on Transport and on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

We will consider the Committee's reports together with responses to public consultation and revise draft national policy statements where appropriate, before designating them. In addition, if the Committee has recommended that a national policy statement raises issues which should be debated by Parliament as a whole, we will make available time in each House for a debate before we designate it.

This model—in which decisions are taken independently, on an objective basis, by a body with no role in promoting particular policy outcomes—offers clear benefits in terms of increased transparency and certainty to both applicants and the public.

We have noted concerns that the White Paper may have defined too narrowly the matters the IPC may take into account in reaching decisions. We are clear that the national policy statement should be the primary policy consideration for the Commission. However we agree that the Commission must be able in taking decisions to have discretion to take account of all information specific to the case before it which it considers relevant and important to its decision, including all such local impacts. The Bill will make it clear that this is the case.

We have also concluded that there may be some very exceptional circumstances in which it would not be appropriate to leave final decisions to the Commission. These circumstances would arise where new issues or evidence are raised relevant to an application before the Commission which are so significant that the Government consider they may justify a change of national policy. Where this was the case, the relevant Secretary of State could direct the Commission to suspend consideration of the application until he or she had reviewed the national policy statement. However where there is an application before the IPC which needs to be determined urgently in the national interest, the Bill will enable the Secretary of State to direct the IPC to produce a recommendation with the final decision to be taken by the Minister. We would expect such cases to be very rare so the Bill will therefore set out clearly the conditions that will apply to the exercise of this power.

Overall we believe that our proposals for major infrastructure will reduce the average time taken for large applications by a half. By doing so, they will save between £3.8 billion and £4.8 billion in costs up to 2030. And they will do this while extending our commitment to ensure sustainable development is at

the heart of planning; strengthening opportunities for public consultation and engagement; and improving accountability.

In addition to our proposals for reform of major infrastructure, the Bill will include a number of significant measures aimed at ensuring that the town and country planning better supports housing growth and climate change, and is more streamlined and efficient.

The Bill will implement our proposals to introduce a new charge, entitled the Community Infrastructure Levy, to enable local authorities to secure a bigger contribution from developers towards the costs of infrastructure. We are pleased that our proposals have been widely welcomed by developers and local government. We will publish further details of the proposals on my Department's website.

Local plans have a key part to play in enabling local authorities to set a clear strategic vision for their communities. The Bill will therefore include a number of provisions to make plan-making simpler and more flexible, which will be supported by a revised planning policy statement. It will also include a new duty on local authorities to take action on climate change through local plans. This duty will be underpinned by a new planning policy statement on climate change which we will publish before the end of the year.

Finally, the Bill will include provisions to reduce the number of planning applications, speed up appeals and simplify the tree preservation order system. It will include provisions which would enable local member review bodies to determine appeals.

These provisions in the Bill will be supported by a range of measures to make it easier for homeowners to extend their homes and to install microgeneration technology, to introduce new planning performance agreements which will ensure large applications are dealt with effectively, and to allow an increase in fees for planning applications in order to enable local authorities to improve the quality of service they provide. We also intend to consult on a new planning policy statement on economic development before the end of the year.

Further details of these and other reforms are set out in the Government's summary of responses to the White Paper consultation, published today and which has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and to the related consultations which will be published shortly.

The Planning Bill will play a key part in delivering on this Government's long-term vision for Britain. Alongside legislation on Housing and Regeneration, Climate Change, Energy and Local Transport this Bill will help to deliver our objectives in relation to housing, climate change, energy security, transport provision, and prosperity and quality of life for all. The Planning Bill will do this by ensuring that we have an efficient planning system which produces fair and transparent outcomes on decisions which are vital both to the local communities they most affect, and to the long term challenges facing us as a nation.

ANNEX ON NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

*Energy*

The Government will publish an overarching national policy statement covering key elements of energy policy relevant to infrastructure provision, such as climate change, security of supply and the energy market, and including information relevant to likely future demand and measures to secure energy efficiency.

Energy national policy statements will also be expected to encompass different forms of energy generation such as fossil fuels, renewable energy, electricity networks and gas infrastructure

*Transport*

The Government's aim is to establish a suite of national policy statements that will comprise:

a statement for aviation incorporating the 2003 Air Transport White Paper in a way which meets our proposed policy and statutory requirements for national policy statements; we are already committed to produce a further progress report between 2009 and 2011, which would provide a good opportunity to designate the ATWP in conjunction with that report;

a statement for ports, possibly incorporating international freight, based on the work already undertaken as part of the ports policy review;

a statement for the strategic national highway and rail networks focusing primarily on the highway network, given that comprehensive plans for the rail network were published earlier this year in the HLOS and supporting rail White Paper.

These statements will over time be aligned with the overarching transport strategy now under development, reflecting the cross-modal approach recommended by Rod Eddington, in order to ensure a consistent analytical and policy framework. The recent discussion document *Towards a Sustainable Transport System* sets out how the Department proposes to develop this strategy, working with transport users and other stakeholders over the period to 2012.

*Water infrastructure*

The Government will set out updated policies for water supply and water quality in a new Water Strategy, Future Water, which is due to be published early in 2008. This will inform development of a new national policy statement on infrastructure development for water supply and waste water treatment for the period from 2010 to 2035. The national policy statement will also be informed by parallel to planning and price review processes such as the Water Resource Management Plans which water companies will produce and the quinquennial reviews of water company sewerage charges.

*Waste disposal*

A national policy statement on waste will set out the Government's objectives for the development of waste infrastructure for the period to 2020 and will be based substantially on the Waste Strategy for England which was published in May 2007 after extensive consultation and engagement. We expect to prepare a waste national policy statement which will draw out and, if necessary, strengthen material in the Waste Strategy to enable the IPC to make decisions on projects coming forward.

*Offshore renewables*

The EPC and the Marine Management Organisation proposed under the Marine Bill White Paper will have responsibilities for consents to offshore renewables projects of specific generating capacities. Both will operate in accordance with consistent Government policy in this area whether set out in the relevant NFS or in the marine policy statement.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### General Affairs and External Relations Council

**The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy):** I represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Brussels. My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for International Development attended discussions of Defence and Development Ministers on 19 and 20 November.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

FOREIGN MINISTERS

GENERAL AFFAIRS

*Preparation of the European Council on 13 and 14 December*

The presidency presented the draft agenda for the European Council. The draft agenda calls for discussion of a range of issues, including migration, police and judicial cooperation, the fight against terrorism, the Lisbon strategy for jobs and growth, climate change, sustainable development, maritime policy and external issues. There will be a fuller discussion at the 10 December GAERC.

*Maritime Policy*

The Commission presented a proposed action plan on Maritime Policy. France said maritime governance would be on its presidency agenda. A number of member states intervened to welcome the strategy and to flag up the importance of subsidiarity, the competitiveness of the EU fleet and environmental sustainability.

*Commission Legislative Programme 2008*

The Commission presented the legislative programme for 2008. The programme's priorities include growth and jobs, sustainable prosperity in Europe, an integrated approach to migration and Europe as a world partner.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

*Information on the EU-China and EU-India Summits*

The presidency updated member states on preparations for the EU-China and EU-India summits, underlining that these would be an important opportunity to discuss the current situation in Burma.

*Preparation of the EU-Africa Summit*

The presidency updated member states on its plans for the EU-Africa summit. Member states noted the draft strategy and action plan, to be finalised at Sharm el-Sheikh on 5 December. I intervened to emphasise UK support for the summit's objectives, but also concern that these should not be undermined by the attendance of President Mugabe. If he did attend, it was important there was substantive discussion of human rights and governance in Zimbabwe, in plenary with President Mugabe present.

*Pakistan*

I briefed partners on recent developments, highlighting the potential impact on EU objectives for the region. It was important to maintain pressure on President Musharraf to end the state of emergency and ensure free and fair elections, as set out in the presidency statement of 6 November. The presidency reiterated these points in its statement to the press following the Council.

*Russia*

The Council discussed the recent decision by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) not to monitor the Duma elections in Russia, in response to restrictions imposed by the Russian authorities. I intervened to underline UK support for ODIHR's election monitoring activities. The UK was deeply concerned and disappointed by the unprecedented restrictions and bureaucratic obstacles Russia had imposed, preventing ODIHR from observing the Duma elections.

*Middle East*

The high representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, briefed member states on his recent visit to the region and on preparations for the US-led conference in Annapolis. The Commissioner for External Relations, Benita Ferrero-Waldner briefed partners on plans being drawn up by the Commission and Council Secretariat for EU practical support to any process to emerge from the conference in Annapolis.

Conclusions were agreed setting out the EU's strong support for Annapolis and the efforts of Abbas and Olmert; its commitment to support negotiations between the parties through the EU Action plan; the need for the parties to take additional steps to meet previous commitments; and support for the goals of the Paris donors' conference.

Conclusions were also adopted on Lebanon, expressing concern at the continuing impasse in electing a president, but welcoming continuing dialogue and calling for free and fair elections.

*Iran*

The high representative briefed partners on his latest contact with Iran. At my request, the presidency confirmed that a fuller discussion would take place at the December GAERC.

*Iraq*

Member states welcomed Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari to the GAERC. He briefed the Council on the current situation in Iraq and welcomed the recent visits of the French and Swedish Foreign Ministers. I intervened to emphasise the importance of the EU stepping up its engagement with Iraq, which was reflected in Council conclusions. These commit the EU to further support to Iraq through the UN, through humanitarian assistance and through support to the Government of Iraq in its work on the international compact and human rights. They also encourage engagement by Iraq's neighbours and call on the Governments of Iraq and Turkey to cooperate to ensure the integrity of the border and that Iraqi territory is not used for attacks on its neighbours.

*Western Balkans*

EU Troika representative Ambassador Ischinger briefed the Council on the negotiation process. I underlined that the EU had to be ready to set out its position in December and act resolutely thereafter if negotiations failed to produce agreement between the parties.

Conclusions were agreed reaffirming EU support for Ambassador Ischinger, welcoming the conduct of elections in Kosovo, but regretting the poor turnout from the Kosovo Serb community and Belgrade's call for a boycott. Conclusions also expressed grave concern at the deteriorating political situation in Bosnia Herzegovina, reiterating the Council's full support for high representative and EU Special Representative Miroslav Lajcak.

*Georgia*

The Council discussed recent developments in Georgia. Member states noted that, although the state of emergency had been lifted, media freedom remained of concern. It was important that the government of Georgia ensured that the right conditions were in place for free and fair presidential elections.

JOINT SESSION OF FOREIGN AND DEFENCE MINISTERS

*Chad, Central African Republic and Sudan*

Foreign and Defence Ministers met in joint session to discuss the proposed ESDP mission to Chad. The Secretary of State for Defence underlined UK political support for the proposed mission as a key element in a comprehensive regional approach.

Conclusions were agreed on current operations and missions under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), capability development including the European Defence Agency, Human Rights Issues and cooperation between the EU and the African Union in Strengthening African Capabilities.

DEFENCE MINISTERS

*European Defence Agency*

The head of the European Defence Agency, Alexander Weis, briefed Defence Ministers. Ministers also agreed the 2008 budget for the Agency, on the basis that earmarked funds would be drawn down on the basis of a fully worked up business case and in consultation with member states.

*Operation EUFOR ALTHEA (Bosnia-Herzegovina)*

The Operation Commander of EUFOR ALTHEA, General John McColl, briefed Ministers. There was a discussion of the current situation and agreement on the need to maintain pressure on the parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina, to maintain a credible EU force and to make progress on police reform.

*Military Capabilities*

The high representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, presented his report on the EU military staffs' strategic planning capacity. Ministers discussed the shortfalls highlighted in the Progress Catalogue. The Secretary of State for Defence highlighted the particular shortage of helicopters for EU operations and outlined options for improving deployability of existing, but currently unsuitable, aircraft.

*Slovenian presidency Priorities*

The Slovenian Defence Minister outlined the priorities for the Slovenian presidency, including further work on military capabilities and support for work on African peace and stability.

JOINT SESSION OF DEVELOPMENT AND DEFENCE MINISTERS

*Security and Development*

Defence and Development Ministers met in joint session to discuss security and development. A number of partners intervened to emphasise the importance of security sector reform and of incorporating development issues into training for ESDP missions. Partners also stressed the importance of early progress on an action plan to take forward this agenda.

Conclusions were agreed underlining that development and security considerations should inform EU strategies and policies in order to contribute to the coherence of EU external action. Conclusions highlighted the interdependence of work on security and development, the key role of the UN and the need for a strategic approach, reflecting CFSP priorities in development planning and vice versa.

DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS

*Orientation debate on the effectiveness of EU external action*

The annual orientation debate focussed on the development consequences of the new joint strategy and action plan, aimed at providing a comprehensive framework for EU-Africa relations from 2008-10, following presentation of a presidency paper.

*Towards an EU response to situations of fragility*

World Bank President Robert Zoellick briefed Ministers on the Bank's approach to fragility and work on climate change. Member states agreed on the need for rapid work to improve coordination on the ground and enhance the synergy of EU development instruments.

Conclusions were agreed welcoming the Commission's paper on fragility, endorsing the OECD Development Assistance Committee's Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations and calling for the comprehensive and forward-looking use of Community and Member State Development Instruments to address situations of fragility.

*Policy coherence for development*

Ministers discussed work on the policy coherence for development or beyond aid agenda. Progress had been made, but a number of member states called for increased momentum. The Secretary of State for International Development called for greater effort on achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs), further progress on reform of the common agricultural policy, development-friendly trade rules and urgent action to tackle climate change.

Conclusions were agreed reporting on the role that EU policies other than development had in helping developing countries achieve the MDGs. They welcome the introduction of mechanisms into EU policy formation designed to improve policy coherence for development, but note that work remained to be done.

*Economic partnership Agreements (EPAs)*

Commissioner for Trade, Peter Mandelson, briefed Ministers on progress in negotiations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific states affected by EPAs. The Secretary of State for International Development underlined the importance of agreement on EPAs being reached by the end of the year.

Conclusions were agreed underlining EU commitment to the negotiations, endorsing the Commission's two step approach, that aimed to achieve agreement on market access for goods by the end of the year, and calling for maximum WTO-compatible flexibility in negotiating the agreements, respecting the right of the negotiating states to determine the best policies for their development.

*Advancing Agriculture in Africa*

Ministers discussed the Commission's communication on advancing agriculture in Africa.

Conclusions were agreed recognising the importance of broad-based sustainable agricultural growth for poverty reduction and food security, and in attaining the millennium development goals (MDG) in Africa. They also welcome

the decision by African heads of state to increase the share of national budgets allocated to agriculture and rural development.

*Partnership with Cape Verde*

Ministers welcomed Cape Verde's prospective graduation from LDC status at the beginning of 2008.

*AOB: Ratification on the Cotonou partnership Agreement*

Ministers updated the Council on progress in ratifying the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. The UK has completed the ratification process.

## HEALTH

### Allergy Report (Government Response)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen):** The Government's response to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee report on allergy has been laid before Parliament (Cm 7255). It is available in the Library and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080793

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### EU Education Council

**The Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education (Bill Rammell):** My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for intellectual property and quality attended the EU Education Council to represent the UK on behalf of DCSF and DIUS.

Ministers discussed the following issues:

*European Qualifications Framework—Political Agreement*

The Council agreed the European Parliament amendments to the EQF. These amendments were in line with the General Approach that had been agreed previously at the Education Council, and there were no additional comments.

*Improving the Quality of Teacher Education—Adoption of Conclusions*

The conclusions are intended to help countries improve teaching standards and attract high-quality teachers into the profession. The UK was happy to support these conclusions, which were adopted without discussion.

*'Education and Training as a Key Driver of the Lisbon Strategy'—Adoption of Resolution*

This resolution focuses on the role that education and training have to play within the Lisbon strategy, notably the role of education in the knowledge triangle, the links between education and training and other 'Lisbon' policies, and the effective use of peer learning and the open method of co-ordination. The resolution was formally adopted with no discussion, and the Commission gave information on the Joint Report of the 2010 Work Programme, a draft of which they had accepted earlier in the week.

*'New Skills for New Jobs'—Adoption of Resolution*

This resolution emphasises the importance of anticipating skills needs and providing opportunities for citizens to improve their skill levels to match these needs. I intervened to congratulate the presidency for this initiative, to reinforce the fact that skills have an enabling role and help Europe to compete in an increasingly globalised world, and to emphasise the importance of training those with low skills and those most at risk of social exclusion. The resolution was then adopted with no further comments.

*'Towards a More Multilingual Europe'—Exchange of Views*

Most Ministers welcomed this focus on multilingualism, stressing the important social and economic role it has to play within the EU. The main points raised during the discussion included the issues surrounding language training for migrants and the importance of looking beyond the EU to other important global languages. I intervened to acknowledge that the UK has not historically performed well in the teaching and learning of foreign languages, but that significant initiatives have been introduced in recent years. I stressed the importance of all languages, rather than just European languages, in fostering strong and cohesive multicultural communities. It would be a mistake to regard the languages used by long-settled communities as simply an 'immigration' issue without regard to pride in historic cultural roots.

*Erasmus Mundus Action Programme (2009-13)—General Approach*

Ministers agreed a General Approach on the new phase of the Erasmus Mundus Programme, which will see an expansion of the programme to all levels of higher education, but particularly to doctoral studies, and provide additional financial support for EU students.

*Resolution on Modernising Universities—Exchange of Views*

Ministers discussed this resolution, which addresses issues around autonomy, governance, curricula and mobility and will go to the Competitiveness Council (23 November) for formal adoption. I supported the joint approach linking mutually reinforcing areas of university and research policy, and stressed the importance of member states committing to university reforms, which are important for both economic reasons and for the life of universities. Other Ministers reported some progress in reform but were frank about how much more was needed.

*Student Mobility: Broadening the Social Dimension of Erasmus—Exchange of Views*

This discussion saw a call from many Ministers for 'positive discrimination' in the awarding of grants, to encourage young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to participate. France stated that they would work on this during their presidency. Anne Lambert, UK Deputy Permanent Representative, intervened to underline the importance of mobility in meeting the challenges of globalisation.

## JUSTICE

### Forced Marriage (Civil Protection ) Act 2007

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice):** Today the Government are announcing their timetable for the introduction during 2008 of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007.

From autumn 2008 the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2008 will come into force. The Act enables courts to make orders to protect those at risk of forced marriage or any attempt to force a person into marriage or to protect a person who has been forced into a marriage. The approach taken gives the courts a wide discretion to deal flexibly and sensitively with the circumstances of each individual case, employing civil remedies that will offer protection to victims without criminalising members of their family.

The new provisions take the form of a new part 4A to Family Law Act 1996, placing them firmly in the wider context of domestic violence and family proceedings generally. During the next year the Government will consult on how to ensure that the Act is implemented effectively.

### Strategic Plan for Reducing Re-offending 2008-11

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson):** I am today announcing the publication of a consultation document to inform the Strategic Plan for Reducing Re-offending from 2008-11. The consultation period runs from today to 18 February 2008, and the Strategic Plan will be published next spring. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office and on the internet at:

http://www.noms.justice.gov.uk/news-publications-events/publications/consultations/RRSP_2008-2011

Re-offending causes real harm to individuals, to communities and to the economy. The costs of reoffending by ex-prisoners alone are significant.

The Government have undertaken a successful programme of work to tackle reoffending since 1997. The latest results show that we have reduced proven adult reoffending by 5.8 per cent. since 2000 against the predicted rate. Tackling reoffending is ongoing work and there is still more work to do to examine what other measures need to be in place to support offender management. The consultation paper seeks views from professionals working in the field on how the Government can capitalise on the successes to date, and continue to reduce reoffending rates.

*Public Service Agreements (PSAs)*

From April 2008, a number of new Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets will be introduced. The *Make Communities Safer PSA* includes a specific measure for reducing reoffending which focuses on the volume and seriousness of reoffending, thereby allowing us to monitor the success of our interventions with priority offender groups more closely, and reflect the impact reducing reoffending has on overall crime rates. Other PSAs are also critical—specifically *Drugs and Alcohol, Socially Excluded Adults*, and *Young People: A Path to Success*. Each of these national agreements will act as levers to further embed the reducing reoffending agenda across Government and at regional levels to support effective local delivery by partners.

*Supporting Events*

The National Offender Management Service is today holding a national launch to promote the consultation. In recognition of that fact that cooperation between agencies is essential in successfully tackling reoffending alone, this event will also be used to launch the Department of Health's consultation, 'Improving Health; Supporting Justice' and a NOMS third sector action plan to build the contribution of the sector to work to reduce reoffending. Consultation events for partners in regions and Wales will follow in December and January.

## ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### Pre-Trial Witness Interviews

**The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird):** My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

I am today announcing that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will be rolling out Pre-Trial Witness Interviews (PTWIs) throughout England and Wales. The roll-out will be completed by April 2008.

The use of PTWIs was proposed by the then Attorney-General Lord Goldsmith in the report "Pre-Trial Interviews by Prosecutors" published in December 2004. The report proposed that prosecutors should be permitted to speak to witnesses about their evidence in order to assess the reliability of the evidence or to clarify complex evidence.

In January 2006, the CPS introduced a pilot scheme in the CPS areas of Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cumbria. The pilot scheme has been evaluated carefully and it has been decided that PTWIs will be implemented throughout England and Wales. As of 26 November 2007, 88 PTWIs had been conducted by Crown prosecutors in the pilot CPS Areas.

The decision to conduct a PTWI is at the discretion of the prosecutor having regard to the circumstances of the case. However, it has been found from the pilot scheme that prosecutors welcome the ability to conduct a PTWI with a witness if appropriate, as it allows the prosecutor to make better-informed prosecution decisions.

## TRANSPORT

### EU Transport Council

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton):** I will attend the second Transport Council of the Portuguese presidency which takes place in Brussels on 29-30 November.

The Council will be asked to agree conclusions on taking forward the *Galileo satellite navigation programme*. EU Ministers concluded at the June Council that the public private partnership process had failed and that

the negotiations with the prospective concessionaire should end. The Commission's subsequent proposals for taking forward the deployment through a public procurement were published in September and were presented to Ministers at the October Council. At that Council, Ministers called for an integrated decision by the end of this year. Following the agreement reached at ECOFIN on Friday on the financing of Galileo, at this forthcoming Council, Ministers will be asked to agree conclusions aimed at defining the general principles covering governance and a public sector procurement of the system. If it is the view of the majority of member states that the project should proceed, then the Government will continue to work to implement an overall management structure that ensures transparency, clear lines of governance and a clear contract between the Commission and ESA as procurement agent. The Government will also seek to ensure the maximum possible competition in procurement. This will provide opportunities for new entrants and SMEs, and deliver value for money for the Community and maximum opportunities for UK industry. All these objectives are in line with the commitments given to Parliament and which were set out in the European Standing Committee debate on Monday 26 November.

The Council will also be asked to agree conclusions on the Commission's *Action Plan on Freight Transport Logistics*. The conclusions are general in nature and give no specific commitments in respect to legislative proposals. We are generally content with the majority of the proposals in the action plan and we support the fact that the Commission has mainly opted for non-legislative measures. We have reservations however concerning the Commission's intention to consider the potential for modification of vehicle weight and dimensions under Directive 96/53/EC and to update the 2003 proposal on Inter-modal Loading Units to technical progress, both of which we believe are unnecessary.

There will be a policy debate on progress made on the renewed *EU Sustainable Development Strategy* adopted by the European Council in June 2006. On the basis of this debate and another conducted in the Environment Council on 30 October, the presidency will prepare input to the conclusions of the December European Council. I shall draw attention to our recently published transport strategy Command Paper and stress the important contribution that EU initiatives on new car $CO_2$ emission targets and on inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme can play in meeting UK and European climate change objectives.

The Council will be asked to reach a political agreement on two legislative proposals in *maritime transport*. First, there is a regulation on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea and inland waterways in the event of accidents (incorporating the Athens convention into EC law). The Government are keen to reach political agreement on the text of this measure. The Government are now broadly content with the proposal for a regulation in the light of the amendments made by member states in negotiation. In particular, the Government would not wish to be bound by the setting of maximum limits of compensation, but agree that member states should have the flexibility to apply the provisions of the Athens convention to domestic seagoing voyages and, together with almost all member states, agree with the European Parliament that the measure should not apply to voyages on inland waterways. Our previous concerns in respect of subsidiarity have been resolved by the changes made in negotiation. The second maritime measure is a recast directive designed to update the existing directives relating to ship inspection and survey organisations. The proposal seeks to establish mutual recognition of the certificates which the organisations issue, introduces a financial penalty system to address poor performance, and places a requirement on the organisations to create a new certification system to improve their oversight. The Government are expecting that it will be possible to reach a political agreement, although there are some drafting issues relating to the proposed financial penalty system which need refinement.

In *road transport*, there will be progress reports on two proposals: a recast regulation on common rules for access to the international road haulage market; and a regulation on common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with to pursue the occupation of road transport operator. Negotiations on both of these proposals continue and we hope will go forward under the Slovenian presidency.

The Council will aim to reach a political agreement on each of three proposals *on rail interoperability and safety* which have been negotiated together. These are: a directive on interoperability of the Community rail system, combining three previous directives; a directive amending the 2004 directive on rail safety; and a directive amending the 2004 directive which established the European Rail Agency. The October Council reached a General Approach on the first two of these. The UK supports the objectives of the Commission's proposals and welcomes any initiative that improves cross-acceptance of rolling stock, and simplifies and modernises the technical part of the regulatory framework for rail. The texts being put to the Council are acceptable to the UK.

The Council will aim to reach a General Approach on a directive on *airport charges*, which aims to establish a framework of common principles as to how airports determine their charges for aircraft landing, take-off and handling of passengers. As part of this, the directive requires the establishment of independent regulators. In negotiation, the UK has sought a proportionate text that does not impose unnecessary regulatory burdens on airlines or airports, and a number of amendments to this effect have been made to the draft.

The Council will aim to reach Political Agreement on a recast regulation on *common rules for the operation of air transport services* in the Community (the "third package review"). This consolidates the three existing regulations of 1992, which established the aviation single market. The proposal seeks to update the regulations in the light of experience of the single market. The UK broadly supports the proposal, in particular on pricing and consumer protection.

Two issues of *aviation external relations* are on the agenda. The Council will be asked to adopt decisions giving the Commission mandates to negotiate with Jordan on a Euro-Mediterranean Aviation Agreement, and with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on an agreement regarding aviation security audits and inspections and related matters. The UK is content for both mandates to be granted by the Council.

### Local Transport Capital Settlement

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton):** Today I am announcing the distribution of a package of funding of more than £4 billion to improve local transport outside London over the remaining three years of the Local Transport Plan period. An indicative announcement of half of this funding package was made last year. This announcement confirms that funding is available now the comprehensive spending review has been completed.

It builds on the £8.5 billion provided to the 122 local transport authorities, including the six passenger transport authorities, over the last seven years for small local transport improvements and capital highways maintenance. These improvements tackle pinch points, improve integration and provide genuine alternatives to the car.

The £4,036 billion package consists of £1.768 billion for integrated transport improvements and £2.268 billion for highways capital maintenance.

This capital funding is in addition to the £2.3 billion made available in regional funding allocations for local authority major schemes and Highways Agency schemes of regional significance over the next three years.

Local transport plans have now been implemented for more than six years. Local transport authorities can be proud of the way they are creating safer, cleaner environments. They have made great progress in reducing local road casualties, improving the condition of many local road networks, providing facilities for cyclists and pedestrians and integrating transport planning alongside that of health, education and housing.

Alongside this year's settlement we have also confirmed financial planning guidelines (announced last year) for a specific road safety grant set up as part of the move to integrate safety cameras into the wider road safety delivery process from 1 April 2007. The funding totals £330 million over three years—that is, £110 million per year. Some £286 million of this is being distributed to local authorities outside London. The remaining £44 million is for London and national agencies. This funding represents a long-term commitment to fund further improvements in road safety and provides local authorities and their partners with the flexibility to implement a locally agreed mix of road safety measures that will deliver the greatest reductions in road casualties in their area.

Details of the 2008-09 to 2010-11 allocations have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and are also available at: http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/capital/ltpsettle07/

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Mental Health and Employment

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain):** Mental health conditions are now the single biggest cause of both absence from work and people claiming incapacity benefits. Around 40 per cent. of people currently receiving incapacity benefits are doing so because of mental ill-health, ranging from more common problems such as stress, anxiety and depression, to more serious conditions.

But the more common mental health conditions can be relatively easily treated and with the right support need not significantly affect people's lives.

We know that being in work is usually good for people with all types of mental health problems and so there is a clear need to support people with mental health conditions to overcome or manage their problems, helping them to find or remain in work.

I am therefore announcing, in partnership with the Secretary of State for Health, our intention to develop a *National Strategy for Mental Health and Work*, to ensure a co-ordinated response across government to the challenges faced by people of working age with mental health conditions and improve their employment chances.

The strategy will look at issues like *stigma and discrimination* that often prevent people with mental health problems from seeking help in the first place, let alone trying to find employment.

The strategy will be overseen by a *high-level group from business, the medical profession, academia, the third sector and stakeholder groups*, chaired by the National Director for Health and Work, Dame Carol Black, and including Lord Richard Layard.

To support the strategy I am today also announcing a number of measures to ensure that mental health and employment support is delivered in a more holistic way, that we provide more advice and support to healthcare professionals and employers, and improve the communication between these two key groups.

We will ensure that, wherever possible as they are rolled out across the country, the *Pathways to Work* and *Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programmes* are linked up, allowing customers to take up the full range of support available and experience their back to work and healthcare support as part of a seamless package.

Alongside this, we will establish a mental health forum to bring together all those involved in delivering Pathways to Work support, to share evidence and experiences in relation to support for people with mental health conditions.

We will pilot an *advice and support service for employers*, especially smaller businesses, to help them to manage and support people with mental health conditions to remain in or return to work. We will explore the possibility of this service also providing support and advice for GPs as part of our efforts to more closely align employment and healthcare services.

We will build on the strong partnerships already created with GPs through our Pathways Advisory Services pilots, which test placing *Jobcentre Plus advisers in GP surgeries*, by expanding those pilots to treble the capacity. The enlarged pilots will have a particular focus on supporting people with mental health conditions and will be supported by a *roll-out of our educational programme for GPs* on health and work issues, focusing specifically on mental health and employment.

We will also explore ways to improve communications between GPs and employers to improve the likelihood of people working. As part of this we will ensure that the process for GPs to issue *medical certificates* that we are currently developing with employers, healthcare professionals and their representative bodies will allow them to be more positive - moving to a 'fitnote' instead of a 'sicknote'—and will make it easier for GPs to provide more helpful advice to patients and their employers about their fitness for work, especially for those with mental health conditions.

All this work will contribute to improving the health and employment prospects of people of working age, which is the subject of the review currently being undertaken by Dame Carol Black, which will report to Ministers early in 2008.

This will build on the substantial progress that has been made in this area since 1997.

We have been transforming the support that we give to Jobcentre Plus customers with health conditions or disabilities, moving away from a system that abandons people to a life on benefits to one which helps them to realise their potential. The introduction of Employment and Support Allowance which will replace incapacity benefit next autumn, along with the expansion of Pathways to Work across the country by April of next year will create a more positive system, built on rights and responsibilities and offering tailored support to help people back into work.

The new medical test for the allowance, the work capability assessment, will be fairer, more accurate and more robust than the current personal capability assessment. Importantly the mental capacity element of the assessment has been fundamentally improved and will be better able to assess the challenges faced by people with mental health conditions and learning disabilities.

Alongside employment support, the Government have been working to make more treatments and health interventions available to people with mental health problems and there has been a significant increase in mental health expenditure since 1997. Only last month the Secretary of State for Health announced the very welcome expansion of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme. The service will ensure that over the next three years 3,600 new therapists will be trained and 900,000 more people will be treated for depression and anxiety. This will have a major impact on those of working age suffering from mental health conditions.

We have therefore been working with medical professional bodies to ensure that GPs and healthcare professionals recognise the importance of work to the health and well-being of their patients; ensure speedy and effective investigation, treatment and rehabilitation; and give sound advice on fitness for work. This work has included the development and testing of a number of training and education programmes and other supportive tools.

Equally important is ensuring that employers understand the challenges faced by people with health problems, so that they can make appropriate adjustments to allow people to remain at work while their health conditions are addressed or to return to work in a phased way as part of their recovery. We are working across Government as part of the Health, Work and Well-being Strategy to engage and support employers. For example, the Department of Health's Action on Stigma campaign 'Shift' launched a new package of supportive tools on mental ill-health in October, designed to give advice on managing and supporting people with mental health problems in the workplace.

Today's announcement is further evidence of our commitment to achieve a step-change in the support available to help people with mental health conditions find and remain in work.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 28 November 2007*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Energy Council

**The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks):** I will represent the UK at the forthcoming Energy Council in Brussels in the morning of 3 December.

There are two substantive items on the Council agenda—the Internal Gas and Electricity Market, on which there will be a progress report and, we hope, a policy debate; and energy technologies on which, following presentations by the presidency and commission on the draft European Strategic Energy Technologies plan, there will also be a policy debate. The third item on the agenda is "International relations in the field of energy" (which will be an information item only).

The item on the internal market will focus on the commission's third package of proposed legislation to improve the functioning of the internal market in electricity and gas. This includes proposals to amend the existing directives on common rules for the internal electricity market and for the internal natural gas market; a proposal to establish an agency for the co-operation of energy regulators; and proposals to amend the existing regulations on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity and on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks. We hope that Ministers will have a full opportunity to debate this important topic. The UK Government support the thrust of these Commission proposals, and consider them as vital for the further development of the internal market.

On the energy technologies item, presentations by the presidency on its "Vision" paper and by the commission on its draft Communication on a European Strategic Energy Technology Plan will be followed by a policy debate. The UK welcomes both the plan and the presidency paper, given the need for a strategic approach to technology in Europe, and we welcome its proposed approach to improving collaboration between organisations and countries—both within the EU and internationally.

The only other agenda item covers "International relations in the field of energy". This is an important issue for the UK, though will only be an information item at this Council. The Portuguese presidency and the Commission will report on a number of developments on the EU's relations with Brazil, Africa and Russia; on the Energy Community treaty; on a proposed international platform on energy efficiency; and on other EU initiatives in the international field.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Education, Youth and Culture Council

**The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Margaret Hodge):** A meeting of the Education, Youth and Culture Council was held on 15 and 16 November. Anne Lambert, UK Deputy Permanent Representative, represented the UK for the culture agenda items taken on 16 November.

The presidency presented the joint statement that had been agreed at the first EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council (PPC) on 25 October. The statement offered the prospect of further cooperation between the two partners. The UK was clear, with support from many other member states, that the work of cultural institutes had to be at the heart of any follow-up to the PPC. The presidency agreed that this issue would need to be taken forward in the drafting of an EU-Russia cultural action plan to be discussed under the Slovenian presidency.

The Council adopted the resolution on the European agenda for culture in a globalising world. The introduction of the Open Method of Co-ordination for Culture was broadly welcomed on the understanding that it was voluntary, proportionate and reflected the needs of the culture sector. There was general agreement that the future cultural agenda should prioritise the contribution that culture makes to the economy (including providing better data to measure this), intercultural dialogue and cultural relations with third countries.

The UK was content with this outcome and supported the adoption of the resolution.

The Council adopted a decision on the selection of Turku (Finland) and Tallinn (Estonia) to host the European Capital of Culture event for 2011.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker):** I have placed in the Library of the House the first Annual Report to Home Office and HM Treasury Ministers on the Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) regime to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. The reporting system is a key element in the United Kingdom's defences against money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Report has been prepared by a multi-agency Committee, under the chairmanship of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), which includes the financial services sector, police, other law enforcement agencies, and the Financial Services Authority.

The Government welcome the good progress that SOCA and the other participants have made to ensure that the reporting system is operating effectively to help deter, detect and disrupt those involved in these crimes and in holding them to account. It is also recognised

that there is more to be done to maximise the benefits of the system. The Home Office and HM Treasury will be working closely with SOCA to take this forward.

The Government are providing law enforcement agencies with additional resources to improve financial investigation. Last year the Home Office allocated £58 million to agencies involved in the recovery of the proceeds of crime from money launderers and other criminals. Of that total, £15.5 million went to police forces in England and Wales, much of which has been invested in increasing financial investigation capacity. Further allocations will be made this year.

For its part the Association of Chief Police Officers issued comprehensive best practice guidance to all forces last year on conducting money laundering investigations through the use of financial investigation techniques.

The strategy agreed by the Home Office, HM Treasury, SOCA and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in February 2007 in "*The financial challenge to crime and terrorism*" set out our shared vision for building on our success to date. The overall goal is a SAR system that addresses the threats to the UK from crime and terrorism, contributes to the reduction of harm and the recovery of the proceeds of crime while minimising the costs of compliance to industry.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Bangladesh (Cyclone Sidr)

**The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander):** Tropical cyclone "Sidr" hit Bangladesh late on the 15 November. In addition to wind speeds of 240 km per hour, people living on the coast were struck by a devastating storm surge—a wall of sea-water 10 to 15 foot high. The official death toll is 3243 (19:00, 26 November) with many more injured and an estimated 7 million people affected. The UN estimates that at least 2.6 million of these people will require immediate life and livelihoods relief assistance for the next two to three months. We know that further support for livelihoods recovery will be required beyond that time frame.

Although the cyclone has had a devastating impact on people, the casualties and damage could have been much worse without the early warning system and contingency measures taken by the authorities. The Government of Bangladesh have acted promptly to bring relief to the affected people and the UK is glad to be supporting this response.

We now know that approximately 1.24 million homes have been damaged—and the poorest, whose houses were mainly made of thatch have been worst affected. More than 1.84 million acres of crop land has been damaged, including a loss of about 800,000 metric tons of rice. Other impacts include loss of livestock—over 523,723 animals perished, damage to the fishing and shrimp industries, and damage to infrastructure including tube wells, toilets, schools, clinics and roads.

But relief is getting through. The Government of Bangladesh and relief organisations including the UN acted swiftly—food, water and medical assistance are now reaching the majority of people. However, because of the vast area affected—31 of the total of 64 districts—and the remoteness of some communities, there are still gaps in provision. In total, over US$191 million has been promised to the Government and NGOs from the international community. The Government of Bangladesh have welcomed this assistance and efforts to co-ordinate this relief are underway. This disaster has followed swiftly on the heels of a major flood which affected Bangladesh in August and September—affecting some of the same districts as the cyclone.

The UK Government were one of the first to commit funds to the cyclone "Sidr" relief efforts. The Department for International Development announced an initial contribution of £2.5 million within days. These funds, channelled through the UN, are already providing immediate relief in the form of food and safe water to 70,000 families, as well as essential non-food items such as clothes, blankets, mosquito nets and utensils. These are vital—many families lost everything they own in the cyclone. We will also be repairing the homes of over 16,000 vulnerable families, and paying local people to undertake clean up operations to restore essential community infrastructure, for example removing debris that is contaminating water supplies. DFID announced an additional £2.5 million on Friday which is being used for short to medium-term water, sanitation and hygiene needs. These were identified by our humanitarian experts as a particular priority. The partners we are working with—Oxfam, Save the Children UK and CARE International—are already using these funds to provide life-saving clean water.

I am pleased to announce today a further £2 million allocation—taking the total UK Government assistance to £7 million. These additional funds will provide essential non-food items including blankets, which are essential during the cold season which is fast approaching in Bangladesh. We will also use the funds to restore livelihoods and address ongoing public health needs. The UK stands ready to provide further support as required, and is pushing for improved coordination of the relief efforts.

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Convicted Rapists and Protecting Victims

**The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird):** My right hon. and learned Friend the Attorney-General has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

"Today the Government are issuing its response to the consultation "Convicting Rapists and Protecting Victims—Justice for Victims of Rape".

The consultation document set out a range of proposals which aimed to improve the outcome of rape cases through further strengthening the existing legal framework and improving our care for victims and witnesses.

The consultation paper dealt with four issues—the consent element in the offence of rape, general expert evidence, hearsay evidence and special measures for witnesses.

In summary, our conclusions following the consultation are as follows: firstly, a judgment in the Court of Appeal has clarified the circumstances in which capacity to consent can be affected by intoxication, and there is accordingly no need for a further change to the law in this area. Guidance for criminal justice practitioners, including the judiciary, will help ensure that the law is properly understood and enforced. We will continue to look for ways in which information concerning the psychological reactions of rape victims can be presented to juries other than through evidence called by the prosecution. We have decided to legislate when Parliamentary time allows to make all complaints of rape by victims to friends, family and others automatically admissible as evidence at trial, irrespective of the time that may have passed since the alleged offence. Finally, on the subject of special measures, we have decided to change the law to make video recordings of rape victims automatically admissible as evidence-in-chief in criminal trials.

We believe this considered package of measures will make a valuable contribution to the successful prosecution of rape cases. A copy of the full consultation response will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and can be downloaded from www.homeoffice.gov.uk and www.cisonline.org ."

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 29 November 2007*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### National Minimum Wage

**The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden):** I am pleased to announce that the Government have submitted their economic evidence on the national minimum wage to the Low Pay Commission. The Commission will take this and all the other evidence received into account when preparing its next report on the minimum wage, which will be submitted to the Government by the end of February 2008.

The economic evidence addresses recent trends in economic and labour market performance, as well as the impact of the national minimum wage on pay, employment and younger workers.

Copies of the Government's economic evidence have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be posted on the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform website at: www.berr.gov.uk.

The Government submitted their evidence on non-economic issues to the Commission in October. A combined volume of the non-economic and economic evidence will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses at a later date.

### Competitiveness Council

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** The following statement provides information on the Competitiveness Council in Brussels on 22 November 2007, at which I represented the UK. The meeting was chaired in the morning by Manuel Pinho, Portuguese Minister for Economy and Innovation, and in the afternoon by State Secretary João Tiago Silveira of the Portuguese Justice Ministry:

The Council held an exchange of views and reached agreement on integrated conclusions covering Industry, SME, and e-skills policy, as well as on the Commission's recent communications on globalisation and competitiveness. The Council agreed on the importance of sustainability and knowledge, as well as facilitating access to markets, both internal and external. I intervened to emphasise the importance of an integrated approach to competitiveness, and an open trade policy.

The Council took note of a progress report and held an exchange of views on better regulation. I intervened to welcome progress, but also to emphasise that further work is needed on impact assessment and the reduction of administrative burdens, including in the field of company law.

The Council also took note of a progress report and held an exchange of views on the revision to the timeshare directive. I intervened to press for further progress on this proposal, but argued that the issue of the right of withdrawal for consumers should be addressed as part of the Commission's wider review of consumer legislation.

Conclusions on sustainable and competitive European tourism were also adopted, noting the contribution which sustainable tourism can make to regeneration and economic development.

The Council adopted conclusions on a simplified business environment for EU companies in the areas of company law, accounting and auditing, emphasising the importance of creating an investment-friendly climate and improving European competitiveness.

The Council took note of a progress report and held an exchange of views on the patent system in Europe, focusing on whether to split jurisdiction for infringement and validity disputes, and on whether to combine work on patent litigation and the Community Patent. The UK intervened to argue against split jurisdiction, and to avoid linking progress on patent litigation issues to the Community Patent.

Under Other Business, the Commission and Presidency gave short progress reports on the single market review, the free movement of goods, the classification, labelling and packaging of substances, product safety, services of general interest, trade defence instruments (where the UK intervened to support a modernised regime which takes account of the interests of all players), the legal protection of designs, and a number of presidency conferences. The incoming Slovenian presidency gave a brief indication of its likely work programme.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Thames Gateway

**The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper):** One year ago, we published the interim plan for the Thames Gateway, Europe's largest regeneration programme, setting out the long-term vision and objectives for the Thames Gateway. We are today publishing a delivery plan, which sets out cross-government priorities and funding progress for the next three years.

Since last year, we have seen major progress on key projects including Crossrail, the Eurostar Ebbsfleet station, the $O_2$ complex and the Olympic Park investment over the last three years includes improving green spaces such as Rainham Marshes, and public sector improvement such as new Sure Start centres as well as economic regeneration projects. Two new universities at Southend and Medway are providing nearly 5,000 new higher and further education places, the Docklands Light Railway extension to Woolwich will be completed in 2009 and employment growth from 2001-2005 was 9 per cent.—faster than the national average.

The plan published today provides a framework for making the best use of public investment, local ownership, big project expertise and private sector entrepreneurship. It sets out a proposed spending programme for 2008-11 which includes £500 million from the Department for Communities and Local Government for regeneration and £100 million for local transport improvements within a total Government investment commitment of over £9 billion.

The cross-government plan identifies three important themes for change in the Gateway: a strong economy, improvements in the quality of life for local communities and the development of the Gateway as an eco-region.

Within these, key to the success of the region are: (1) economic transformation in four key areas: Canary Wharf, London Gateway, Ebbsfleet Valley, and the Olympic Park with Stratford City; (2) supporting the ten largest developments for new homes; (3) the Thames Gateway Parklands; and (4) investing in a skilled workforce.

In terms of local communities, we have given priority in our spending allocations to six priority locations: Stratford, the Lower Lea and the Royal Docks; London Riverside; Greenwich Peninsula and Woolwich; Thurrock; Kent Thameside; and Medway. There are also five urban renewal areas receiving support: Barking; Basildon; Erith; Sittingbourne and Swale; and Southend.

The plan sets out the route to make the most of the economic potential of the Gateway, encourage new investment and jobs, and boost the skills of local people to take up new opportunities. This plan outlines:

an increase in the number of new jobs we expect in the Gateway to 225,000 by 2016;

a £200 million Strategic Economic Investment Fund to support priority projects from the RDAs' Thames Gateway Economic Development Investment Plan, that the RDAs estimate will lever in an additional £75 million and is on top of their baseline annual investment;

a "Pan-Gateway" skills plan developed by the Learning and Skills Councils to invest £1.6 billion in teaching and learning, and £850 million in new building for further education;

the building and opening of new and extended further and higher education campuses in Grays and Basildon, Swale and Medway, creating around 9,000 places;

commitment to a recommended approach to the biggest remaining constraint to development in the Thames Gateway, junction 30 of the M25 (the junction with the A13) with an announcement in 2008;

an allocation of £100 million from the Community Infrastructure Fund to invest in 13 local transport schemes.

On top of economic investment, we are committed to improving the quality of life for all residents in the Gateway as a critical part of regeneration—building more affordable houses, investing in thriving town centres, public places and spaces, growing and improving public services, and supporting community cohesion. In this plan:

we prioritise funding from the Thames Gateway programme to secure housing programmes in the 10 locations where extra homes are most urgently needed. These 10 programmes are expected to deliver nearly 110,000 homes by 2016, the majority of our target figure;

we set out the Housing Corporation intention to invest over £800 million in around 15,000 affordable homes by 2011;

we confirm that Communities and Local Government will ask the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) to do a further housing audit in the Gateway in 2010 to measure progress in improving design quality;

we include planned spending of over £600 million in this CSR period as part of a longer-term £1.4 billion programme on new hospital provision serving the Gateway;

we include planned investment of £1.2 billion on new or substantially refurbished schools in Gateway authorities, as well as £278 million allocated to support Sure Start centres in Gateway authorities, including 90 new ones;

we announce the appointment of Sir Terry Farrell as Design Champion for the Thames Gateway Parklands, a new programme to celebrate and enhance the individual character of the Gateway backed by a £35 million allocation of Thames Gateway funding to invest in improving the natural and urban environment;

The plan also outlines the challenges for the Gateway in both increasing economic growth, development and prosperity and tackling climate change. The Thames Gateway can lead the way with environmental jobs, greater use of renewables and new technologies, and environmental improvements to existing homes and building. This plan takes the first steps to promote higher standards for cutting carbon emissions, water conservation, reducing waste, and protecting people against flood risk. The plan outlines:

that Communities and Local Government will invite proposals for a new Eco-quarter in the Gateway, similar to the plans for eco-towns but this time—for the first time—within an existing urban area;

a continuing commitment to 80 per cent. of new homes being built on brownfield land;

some £2 million available to promoters and developers to fund eco-risk assessments of the top 10 housing programmes, to ensure they will design in climate change mitigation, flood risk management, energy and water efficiency from the start;

planned investment of £15 million in a community-focused programme to retrofit existing homes with energy saving measures that will reduce emissions by up to 60 per cent.

an allocation of £1.5 million from the Thames Gateway fund to work with the Energy Savings Trust to establish the first of the new national energy service centres to deliver the Green Homes Services across the Gateway;

a follow-up to our 'water neutrality' feasibility study, investigating costs and possible delivery mechanisms;

work on the costs and possible delivery mechanisms for a zero construction waste target across the Gateway;

investment by the RDAs in an International Institute for sustainability.

The Government will ensure that public funds invested in the Gateway are subject to rigorous appraisal to secure value for money and, wherever possible, be used to attract additional private funding to maximise the benefit for Thames Gateway communities. The levels of funding set out in this delivery plan are therefore indicative and subject to final confirmation as individual projects come forward for appraisal.

The role of Government across the Gateway is to ensure that key infrastructure is provided to promote improvement and growth and to provide the conditions that enable investor confidence to flourish. We need the market to respond to the new opportunities on offer. The ultimate measure of success will be when that investor confidence is assured and places in the Gateway take on a new and self-sustaining identity.

## DEFENCE

### Future Rapid Effect System

**The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth):** The Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) has a vital role to play in the future of the British Army. We stated that we would announce the outcome of the utility vehicle design trials by the end of November. I am delighted to announce today that these trials have been successfully completed on schedule, and that a recommendation has been produced based on technical design considerations. Further work with all three possible providers will be undertaken over the next few weeks in order to clarify the commercial implications of their proposals. Following this, a definitive announcement will be made on the preferred design to be taken through the remainder of assessment phase of this part of the FRES programme.

### Sea King Integrated Operation Support

**The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth):** I am announcing today the award of a contract to Agusta Westland for Implementation Phase 2 of the Sea King Integrated Operational Support (SKIOS IP2) programme. This programme will maintain availability levels and reduce costs for each of the live variants of Sea King helicopter operated by the RN and the RAF. This is part of the wider Defence Logistics Transformation Programme to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of military logistics support to the front line. The contract builds on existing SKIOS arrangements and the support arrangements piloted on other MOD helicopters. It is worth around £470 million over the first five years, with a price review thereafter, and transfers to industry further responsibility for Sea King and component maintenance. The contract is forecast to deliver savings in the region of £90 million over 12 years against current support arrangements without any reduction of capability. These savings are in addition to the savings already achieved under Implementation Phase 1 of the programme, awarded in April 2005, which provides technical and spares support services. Implementation Phase 2 also transfers to industry approximately 300 military and civilian posts that currently provide flight line engineering and logistics support at Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Search land Rescue (SAR) bases in the UK and Falkland Islands. The contract represents another deliverable of the helicopter plans set out in the Defence Industrial Strategy, strengthens the partnered relationship with industry, and maintains aircraft availability levels but with reduced through life costs. Overall it provides better value for money for the taxpayer.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### NATO

**The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband):** The right hon. and learned Member for North-East Fife (Sir Menzies Campbell) has replaced the hon. Member for Hereford (Mr. Keetch) as a Member of the United Kingdom delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

## HEALTH

### Abortion Act 1967 (Government Response to Science and Technology Committee Report)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo):** Today we have laid before Parliament the Government response to the Science and Technology Committee's report on the scientific developments relating to the Abortion Act 1967 (Cm 7278).

In June 2007, the Committee undertook to conduct an inquiry into scientific developments relating to the Abortion Act 1967. The Department participated in the inquiry and the Government is grateful for the Committee's report and has accepted several of the key recommendations.

The Command Paper sets out the Government's response to all 32 conclusions and is available in the Library.

### NHS Finance and Performance

**The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson):** At the end of 2005-06, the NHS had a net deficit of £547 million, with 123 (33 per cent.) organisations building up a total gross deficit of £1.3 billion. Today I am pleased to say that we have turned that position around completely.

Financial projections at the end of September 2007 show that the NHS is forecasting a healthy £1.8 billion surplus for 2007-08, with only 25 trusts forecasting a deficit. This is a dramatic improvement and a testament to the efforts of NHS staff over the last year and a half.

This level of surplus—which is only about 2 per cent. of the overall NHS budget—shows sensible financial management. The NHS should not merely be aiming to breakeven year-to-year, it should be planning for a surplus so that it can make long-term investment decisions, such as public health investments and shifting appropriate care out of hospital and closer to people's homes.

The Chief Executive of the Audit Commission, Steve Hundred, said last month

"The NHS is no longer in deficit, which is good news for patients and for taxpayers. Managing money well goes hand-in-hand with providing better patient care. Trusts that fail to manage their money well are unlikely to be doing their best for patients". (Audit Commission, Press Notice, 23 October)

But, while this is good news in overall terms, we are not resting on our laurels. We are working with strategic health authorities to support a handful of financially challenged trusts, which need intensive effort to get out of deficit. Our aim is that all NHS organisations should be out of in year deficit by the end of next year.

This financial turnaround and surplus have been achieved at the same time that the NHS has maintained or improved performance on key indicators of patient care. We will be publishing a report tomorrow that shows:

- waiting times are down to an all time low and the NHS is on course to deliver the 18-week target;
- cancer waits are down;
- the excellent level of A&E performance has been maintained, even during periods of extra pressure;
- latest data show continued progress towards halving rates of MRSA, a problem in health systems across the developed world; and
- early signs of promise on Clostridium difficile, with latest quarterly figures showing a fall in numbers for the first time.

The financial improvement has not been at the expense then of patient care. In fact, the independent Healthcare Commission's last survey of recent hospital inpatients showed 92 per cent. rated their care as good, very good or excellent.

These results have been achieved, in part, by introducing a stronger, fairer and more transparent NHS financial regime, coupled with a renewed emphasis on performance management, but more importantly by NHS organisations taking action to increase productivity such as:

- increasing the use of day surgery and minimally invasive techniques;
- by providing support for people with long-term conditions and reducing unnecessary emergency bed days; and,
- reducing the use of agency staff.

The comprehensive spending review settlement gave health a very good increase of 4.0 per cent. in real terms, but even this means the NHS will need to plan for a slowdown on the recent unprecedented levels of investment. The surplus gives the NHS flexibility to respond to fluctuations in demand and enables organisations to commit future growth on improving services for patients.

It must be emphasised that this surplus is not being held at the centre. It remains with the NHS so they can use it to invest in improving the quality of patient care next year and in future years.

Through the rest of this financial year the NHS will use the surplus to accelerate improvements. For example, the strategic health authorities have between them agreed investments of £57 million in a programme of deep cleaning for hospitals to help deliver a better patient experience.

The NHS will also have the capacity to accelerate progress in the numbers of patients treated within 18 weeks of referral to a specialist. For example, £22 million has been made available in NHS South Central and is already producing more clinics, diagnostic facilities and operating theatre sessions.

While in the north-west £35 million will be made available to support a broad range of public health initiatives. A large amount of this resource will be targeted at educational programmes. And in the East Midlands £7 million has been made available to improve GP access and premises along with a further £5 million to reduce health inequalities.

In conclusion, NHS performance at quarter 2 shows encouraging progress being made in delivering our promises to patients and the wider public and the forecast surplus is a reassuring sign that the NHS is restored to financial health and will enable investment in improving the quality of patient care. Tables have been placed in the Library.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Additional Protective Services (Demonstration Sites)

**The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Tony McNulty):** I am today announcing that three more initiatives are being added to the 10 already included as demonstrator sites for the protective capabilities programme. These initiatives are addressing the demands of major crime, serious organised crime and other threats to public safety by police forces and authorities working together in a range of different collaborative projects.

The new initiatives that the Home Office will be supporting are:

| *Police Forces and Authorities* | *Initiative* |
|---|---|
| Staffordshire / Warwickshire / West Mercia / West Midlands | *Regional Intelligence Project*: to develop enhanced intelligence structures between the four regional forces. |
| Derbyshire / Leicestershire / Lincolnshire / Northamptonshire / Nottinghamshire | *Specialist Operational Capacity and Capability*: to identify and take forward opportunities to deliver joint specialist requirements for protective services across the region. |
| Humberside / North Yorkshire / South Yorkshire / West Yorkshire | *Fast-Time tasking, co-ordinating and resourcing arrangements*: to provide capacity and capability coverage for all seven protective services across the forces of the region. |

The selection of these three initiatives, from 12 proposals submitted, will bring the number of forces participating in the programme to 34 across England and Wales.

The demonstrator sites are being established to examine and develop different models of collaboration between forces to enhance the delivery of a range of policing services focused on protecting the public. The lessons learned will be used to strengthen the development of future police joint working, particularly in finding ways to improve the capability and capacity for protective services delivery.

Home Office funding of £4.1 million is being provided in total to the demonstrators to support the start-up costs of their projects.

### Autumn Performance Report

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** The Home Office Autumn Performance Report 2007 will be published tomorrow by command of Her Majesty. Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office. The Report will also be available on the Home Office website.

The report sets out the progress we have made towards achieving our public service agreement targets.

The report shows that we have made progress against our targets. We have continued to reduce the harm caused by drugs. We are cutting crime levels in high crime areas faster than elsewhere. In the year to June 2007 we have brought 1.434 million offences to justice. Police performance continues to improve in tackling crime and public confidence is continuing to increase.

## JUSTICE

### Leeds Magistrates Court

**The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw):** I am today announcing that yesterday, on 28 November, I formally asked Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Courts Administration to work with the Chief Inspectors for the Constabulary and the Crown Prosecution Service to conduct a thorough inspection and prepare a report to Ministers into the resulting and warrant processes at Leeds magistrates court.

An experienced judge will also be appointed by the senior presiding judge to conduct an independent

investigation of the judicial responsibilities of legal advisers at Leeds magistrates court.

The concerns about Leeds magistrates court relate to two issues: the recording of outcomes of cases principally between 1997-2003 and subsequently, in the case of recordable offences, updating the Police National Computer (PNC). This is a process known as resulting. The second related issue centres on a process used for withdrawing warrants issued by the court for the arrest of defendants who fail to appear. The withdrawal of a warrant is a judicial decision.

The investigations will verify the number of cases involved, the breakdown of offences and the position regarding the Police National Computer (PNC). The terms of reference are as follows:

*"Under Section 60(4) of the Courts Act 2003 and working with HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary and HM Chief Inspector of CPS; the Chief Inspector of Court Administration will report to the Secretary of State for Justice, the Home Secretary and the Attorney-General as necessary on:*

*1. The effectiveness and appropriateness of the systems enabling a record of every court adjudication to be entered in the magistrates court register at Leeds magistrates court.*

*2. The effectiveness and appropriateness of the systems enabling court registers to be conveyed to the police from Leeds magistrates court.*

*3. The effectiveness and appropriateness of the systems enabling court adjudications from Leeds magistrates court to be placed on the PNC.*

*4. The effectiveness and appropriateness of the interagency systems in place to manage warrant withdrawal in Leeds magistrates court.*

*The Chief Inspector of Court Administration will support the separate and independent judicial investigation of the judicial responsibilities of legal advisers at Leeds magistrates court, as appropriate".*

In addition the following actions are in place:

We have started investigating the national process and practice for withdrawing warrants, involving courts, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service. This has identified differing practices across magistrates courts which will require further local investigation and may require us to clarify the procedures.

Simultaneously we are writing to all local criminal justice boards as part of a national review into warrant withdrawal practice across England and Wales and will provide further detailed national guidance should that be required.

Following a pro-active national review instigated by officials in January 2007 about the effectiveness of processes for resulting the 2.2 million cases dealt with in the magistrates court each year, my officials identified that there were some courts which needed to improve performance and take action to deal with any outstanding cases.

Ministers have been actively engaged in this on-going work on improving performance in resulting since January.

The majority of outstanding cases were dealt with by the end of May and performance has been improving since. The courts keep performance under regular review to ensure the accuracy of the resulting process. I have however asked HMCS to again review comprehensively the information for any outstanding issues.

However, the national review identified a continuing issue at Leeds magistrates court where there was a problem with the process. Where any evidence of misconduct was found disciplinary investigations have been undertaken. A further investigation is ongoing.

As part of the work that court staff were undertaking to look at these issues, this month they identified a further problem with an historical process dating back to 2003 to withdraw old "failure to appear" warrants which had been agreed by the court, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the police. Although the withdrawal of warrants is entirely appropriate in certain circumstances, the process used in Leeds needs to be investigated.

In June 2006 the Government issued guidance for areas on withdrawing warrants, emphasising the issues that should be taken into account and stressing that the decision to withdraw a warrant is a judicial one. However, over the last few months it has become evident that the issues over the processes used in Leeds were of sufficient concern to merit a detailed inquiry. The issue over the withdrawal of warrants, which was reported to ministers last week, is of particular concern.

It is for that reason I have asked the inspectors to review all of these matters to provide me with independent assurance that the issues have been dealt with appropriately and whether there are any national lessons that we should learn from the experience in Leeds. Together with the review of the process for the withdrawal of warrants and the judicial responsibilities review, I will then be able to assess whether further national actions need to be taken, including improvements to the resulting process.

The resulting of cases and enforcement of warrants are important areas of work. All criminal justice agencies work continually to improve processes and address performance issues where they arise.

HMCS has worked with the police to improve performance and, for the first time, the joint target of having 75 per cent. of all case results entered on the PNC within 10 days of the court hearing was met in July 2007 and has been maintained.

We have also improved the enforcement of warrants. From August 2004 until June 2007 there was a 54 per cent. reduction in the number of outstanding warrants. Latest data indicate that the number of warrants withdrawn per month has fallen by more than 30 per cent. since the same period in 2005.

I will make a further statement to the House on the findings and facts relating to all these matters, the action that has been taken and the actions that will be taken when the investigations have concluded. The inspectorate report will be published to Parliament.

## WALES

### Education and Skills Bill (Framework Powers)

**The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain):** I am pleased to inform the House that an explanatory memorandum explaining the proposals for the use of framework powers in the Education and Skills Bill is available today. Copies of which can be found in the Vote Office, Libraries of both Houses and at: www.walesoffice.gov.uk

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Monday 3 December 2007*

## TREASURY

### ECOFIN (4 December 2007)

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held on 4 December in Brussels. The agenda will be as follows:

*Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact*

The Council will discuss whether Poland has met the 27 August 2007 deadline to correct its excessive deficit procedure, following discussion of the issue at the Economic and Financial Committee. The UK supports a prudent interpretation of the Stability and Growth Pact, which takes into account the economic cycle, sustainability and the important role of public investment

*Lisbon Multilateral Surveillance*

Ministers will be asked to agree draft conclusions on the multilateral surveillance element of the Lisbon national reform programmes. These conclusions have been prepared at the Economic Policy Committee and the Economic and Financial Committee. The UK welcomes multilateral surveillance under the Lisbon strategy, which encourages member states to focus on the implementation of the Lisbon strategy.

*Globalisation: Capital and Labour Flows*

Ministers will be asked to agree conclusions on the economic dimension of migration. This follows from an exchange of views at November ECOFIN on the basis of a report on the economic impact of migration prepared by the European Commission. At the November meeting, Ministers agreed that it was important that the economic dimension should be considered in broader discussions of migration.

*Financial Services: a) Directive on the Solvency of Insurance Companies (Solvency II)*

Ministers will be invited to discuss the proposed Solvency II directive on the prudential requirements for insurance and reinsurance companies. The debate will focus on a paper prepared by the Portuguese presidency, which endorses a need for further work on certain key areas of group supervision.

*b) Lamfalussy Review*

Ministers will be asked to agree Council conclusions on the review of the Lamfalussy arrangements. The UK believes the Lamfalussy arrangements have made a major contribution to improving the efficiency of the EU legislative process and enhancing supervisory co-operation. The UK believes the draft council conclusions represent an appropriate consensus about how the Lamfalussy arrangements should evolve going forward.

*c) Risk Capital*

Ministers will be asked to agree Council conclusions on cross-border risk capital, which have been prepared by the Financial Services Committee. The UK supports work to break down the key remaining barriers to development of a European venture capital market.

*Taxation:*

*a) VAT Package*

Following on from its discussion at its November meeting, the Council will be asked to agree a set of measures that will modernise the EU VAT rules for the cross-border supply of services, with particular focus on proposed changes to the rules for the telecoms, broadcasting and e-services sectors. The UK strongly supports these proposals.

*b) Reduced VAT Rates*

i) Commission communication on VAT rates other than the standard rate.

Ministers will be asked to agree Council conclusions that will provide political guidance for the Commission to enable it to prepare a new legislative proposal on VAT rates.

ii) Proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 2006/112/EEC with regard to certain temporary provisions concerning rates of VAT.

Ministers will then discuss the Commission proposal to extend until 2010 some of the new member states' derogations for reduced VAT rates. The UK believes that member states should be given flexibility to apply reduced VAT rates where these will not materially affect the single market, and therefore supports the extension of most of the temporary derogations granted to those member states that acceded to the European Union after 1 January 1995.

*c) Capital Duty Directive*

Ministers will then be asked to discuss a Commission proposal for a directive concerning indirect taxes on the raising of capital. The UK abolished capital duty in 1988.

*d) Combating Tax Fraud*

Ministers will be asked to agree conclusions on work to improve arrangements to combat tax fraud, which have been prepared on the basis of a report by the Commission. The UK is strongly supportive of work that will help in the fight against Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) and other VAT fraud, while remaining committed to minimising the burdens on legitimate businesses.

*e) Code of Conduct Group (Business Taxation)*

Ministers will be asked to agree the forward workplan for the code of conduct group, a Ministerial group which looks to coordinate and share best practice on tax-related issues that are not directly covered by EU legislation. The UK supports the proposed work programme.

### ECOFIN (13 November 2007)

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling):** The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held on 13 November in Brussels. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury attended for the UK. The items on the agenda were as follows:

*Lisbon Strategy: The New Three-year Cycle*

The Council adopted conclusions on the next three-year cycle for the Lisbon strategy, as prepared by the Economic Policy Committee. Ministers agreed that the Lisbon strategy is delivering results, and that the four priority areas for reform agreed at the 2006 spring Council (employment, knowledge and innovation, business potential, and energy and climate change) remain valid. Ministers agreed with the Commission's assessment that the integrated guidelines do not need a fundamental overhaul, as stability is an important element for the effectiveness of the Lisbon strategy. They also agreed that the main focus of the new cycle should be on the implementation and delivery of reform.

*Globalisation: Capital and Labour Flows*

The Council exchanged views on the basis of a report on the economic impact of migration prepared by the European Commission, taking into account a paper prepared by the Economic Policy Committee. Ministers agreed that it was important that the economic dimension should be considered in broader discussions of migration.

*Statistics*

The Council agreed conclusions on EU statistical matters, including the 2007 EFC status report on information requirements, the reduction of the statistical burden, EU statistical governance, and the public communication of major statistical revisions, as prepared by the Economic and Financial Committee. The UK welcomes work to reduce the statistical burden on member states.

*Taxation:*

*a) VAT Package*

The Council discussed a set of measures that will modernise the EU VAT rules for the cross-border supply of services, with particular focus on proposed changes to the rules for the telecoms, broadcasting and e-services sectors. The presidency felt that good progress had been made on these proposals, which the UK strongly support. The Council is due to consider these proposals again at its meeting on 4 December 2007.

*b) Green Taxation: Passenger Car-related Taxes*

Ministers exchanged views on Commission proposals for a new directive introducing a compulsory $CO_2$ element into passenger car taxation. The UK Government are committed to combating climate change using the most cost-effective tools available, but remains to be convinced that this proposal, which would restrict member states' choice of form and structure of passenger car taxation, is necessary.

*c) Reduced VAT Rates*

Ministers discussed Commission proposals to extend until 2010 most of the new member states' derogations for reduced VAT rates. The UK Government are supportive of the proposal to extend most of the temporary derogations granted to those member states that acceded to the European Union after 1 January 1995. The Council is due to consider these proposals again at its meeting on 4 December 2007.

*Global Navigation Satellite System (GALILEO): Financing Aspects*

Ministers exchanged views on the financing of the Galileo project. The UK Government believe that sound financial management is essential to the success of the Galileo project.

*Presentation of the Annual Report by the Court of Auditors Concerning the Financial Year 2006*

The Council received a presentation from Hubert Weber, the President of the European Court of Auditors on the 2006 general budget. The UK Government welcome the improvements made to financial management of EU funds in 2006 and support the calls made by the Commission and the presidency for further progress to be made in this area.

## DEFENCE

### C-17 Globemaster

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** The Ministry of Defence recognises the importance of a robust strategic airlift capability to operational deployments. On 26 July 2007 I announced our intention to procure a sixth C-17 Globemaster aircraft. I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Defence has now signed a contract with Boeing, totalling some £130 million, for the purchase of the sixth C-17 aircraft to be delivered in 2008. This procurement will deliver a significant increase in our capability. The four existing C-17 aircraft already make a critical contribution to sustaining current UK world wide operations, both in providing a general airlift capability and in lifting oversize items. The additional C-17 will join the existing fleet of four aircraft and a fifth aircraft which will be delivered in May 2008.

### Marine Services

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** Marine services embrace a wide range of waterborne and associated support activities, both in and out of port, at Portsmouth, Devonport and on the Clyde, as well as maintenance of UK and overseas moorings and navigation marks and support to a range of military operations and training. Under the current arrangements, in-port services are provided by Serco Denholm Ltd. under Government-owned contractor operated arrangements, while out of port services are undertaken by the Royal Maritime Auxiliary Service (RMAS).

Since 2002, we have been working to find a long-term service provider and following an industry briefing day in May 2003 and a subsequent pre-qualification questionnaire exercise, four bidders were short listed, although two subsequently withdrew. The two remaining bidders, Serco Denholm and the Starfish Consortium (the latter comprising Babcock Naval Services (Clyde), Devonport Management Ltd. (Plymouth), Fleet Support Ltd. (Portsmouth) and Smit International (Scotland) Ltd.), were invited to submit two proposals offering a complete service: one of these proposals reflected a partnering arrangement with the RMAS, whereby staff remain in the MOD; the second proposal would entail TUPE transfer as appropriate.

Following detailed bid evaluations, using predetermined criteria, Serco Denholm's proposal to provide the complete service, including taking ownership of MOD marine service assets, was selected as the preferred bidder. Following completion of final negotiations with the company, a contract will be awarded in early December that will provide more flexibility and offer greater potential for continuous improvements. The contract for those services currently provided by Serco Denholm (Vesting

Day 1) will commence immediately following the award of the contract while the contract for the services currently provided by the RMAS (Vesting Day 2) will start at the beginning of April 2008.

A key implication of the new arrangement will see the transfer of the RMAS workforce to the company under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) Regulations. New pension arrangements are also in place that are comparable to those currently enjoyed under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

A farther significant aspect will be the closure of Her Majesty's mooring depot at Pembroke Dock within six months of Vesting Day 2, which will lead to around 30 redundancies. New employment opportunities are, however, expected to emerge from arrangements that will form part of the contract for the sale of the dock.

The changes in the way the service is to be provided will result in some 200 post reductions from the combined workforce of 740 during the first five years of the new arrangement. As far as possible, these will be achieved either through natural wastage or voluntary means although the need for some compulsory redundancies cannot be ruled out at this stage.

Throughout the tendering process the Department has engaged with the relevant trades unions and this will continue as the formal TUPE consultation process commences.

This is a complex and valuable contract and the MoD's commitment has been to ensure that we get it right for all of those concerned, especially those staff employed by the RMAS who will be affected by the new arrangements.

## HEALTH

### CJD Surveillance Unit (Annual Report)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo):** The National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit's (NCJDSU) fifteenth annual report was published on 30 November. The report documents the unit's findings in relation to sporadic, familial and iatrogenic Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) up to 31 December 2006. The report has been placed in the Library, and is available on the NCJDSU's website at: www.cjd.ed.ac.uk

### Cancer Reform Strategy

**The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson):** Today the Government fulfil their commitment to publish a new cancer reform strategy. The cancer reform strategy sets out the next phase of the Government's commitment to deliver world class cancer services. Building on the progress that has been made following the NHS cancer plan (2000), the strategy recognises that there are major challenges ahead. The strategy sets out the actions that need to be taken over the next five years on prevention, early diagnosis, better treatment, improving patients' experience of care and reducing inequalities. It also sets out how these actions will be delivered by the NHS.

The strategy has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members in the Vote Office.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Specialist Disability Employment Services

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire):** Work matters. People in work are generally better off financially and in terms of their health and well-being, their self-esteem and the future prospects for them and their families. Disabled people must get the same opportunities to benefit from work as everyone else.

Our specialist disability employment services (job introduction scheme, work preparation, Workstep, disability employment advisers and access to work) for those who need the most support to work, or long-term support in work, make a profound difference to the lives of tens of thousands of disabled people every day. But we can make these services work better and achieve more.

We have carried out a major review of these services and listened to the views of many disabled people, employers, external delivery partners and Jobcentre Plus staff.

Today we have published a consultation paper "*Helping people achieve their full potential: Improving Specialist Disability Employment Services*" to set out how we think we can improve these services to help more disabled people reach their potential through leading fulfilling working lives. A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

The proposals complement our other major reforms such as pathways to work and proposals for a flexible new deal by offering additional specialist help for people with greater support needs. Alongside the modernisation of Remploy we expect these proposals would help improve our services for those disabled people who need most help to find, retain and progress in paid work.

Responses to the consultation need to be submitted by close of business on Monday 10 March 2008.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Tuesday 4 December 2007*

## TREASURY

### Tax Information Exchange (UK and Bermuda)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy):** A new tax information exchange arrangement with Bermuda was signed on 4 December 2007. After signature, the text of the arrangement was deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text of the arrangement will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### One Northeast Regional Development Agency

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** I have decided to appoint the new Board Members listed below:

Alex Cunningham

Gill Hale

Christopher Higgins

Graham Thrower

Ian Dormer

The new appointments will all be for a period of three years.

The appointments will begin on 14 December 2007 and will expire on 13 December 2010.

I have placed further details of the new appointments in the Libraries of both Houses. They were all made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Infrastructure for Housing

**The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper):** I am today announcing additional funding of £732 million of flexible infrastructure support for local authorities who have committed to high rates of economic and housing growth in the designated new growth points or in the growth areas designated in the 2003 sustainable communities plan.

In the housing Green Paper we set an ambitious goal of 2 million homes by 2016 to help respond to the increasing housing crisis, for example for young families trapped in overcrowded accommodation and unable to afford a home. The growth areas and growth points will play a critical role in helping us reach these targets delivering a total of 870,000 new homes by 2016, of which 210,000 are additional to existing plans. Following the housing Green Paper we have invited more authorities to join the scheme, particularly in the northern regions, either as new growth points or eco-towns, and I will make a further announcement on the selection of successful bids in February.

The 117 existing growth authorities have now set out their infrastructure plans in long-term programmes of development which they have put together with partners bringing together the future investments they need to create sustainable growth. These will facilitate major new developments, for example in town centre renewal, in opening up development sites, many of them brownfield, and to provide a high standard of community facilities and new green infrastructure.

For these areas I am announcing today funding of £224 million for 2008-09 with indicative awards of £336 million for 2009, 2010 and 2011, and a further allocation of around £172 million for 2009-11 once we have consulted on and reviewed the new approach to funding. Additional funding will also be provided in due course for other councils who come forward to back eco-towns or become additional growth points. Examples of projects set out in the programmes of development include:

major town centre renewal schemes transport solutions to support growth, improvements to road capacity, more sustainable travel through park-and-ride and better cycleways and walking routes;

overcoming physical barriers to help town centre renewal such as building additional railway crossings;

new green infrastructure, for example along river corridors;

new community facilities and buildings;

new civic spaces and amenities.

Some of these schemes will need other funding sources and may take longer and cost more than is available in this round of funding—that is why our new approach gives authorities flexibility to so that they can use the funding where they judge it will be most effective in line with local government White Paper principles.

This is a new strategic approach which will enable local authorities to supplement mainstream funding for transport, education and health and give them greater scope to meet priorities locally. It gives them greater scope, for example to improve the quality of development schemes coming forward and ensure that these schemes benefit existing communities as well as new ones.

Local partners need to know that when they commit to growth, Government are willing to support them with additional funding to ensure that new housing developments are sustainable, good quality and that we invest in communities not just houses.

In addition to the funding I am announcing today we will shortly be inviting expressions of interest for the community infrastructure fund, which is run jointly with the Department for Transport of £200 million for transport schemes to support housing growth projects.

Looking to the future we need to find new ways to increase the resources available to partners to fund local infrastructure. We have introduced legislation in

the planning Bill for a new community infrastructure levy that will increase investment in the vital infrastructure that growing communities need. The levy has the potential to raise hundreds of millions of pounds of additional investment on top of current Government funding and negotiated agreements, and can be spent on a wide range of community infrastructure—this could be major transport improvements, schools, parks and health centres.

All development creates some need for infrastructure, services and amenities and it is only fair that new developments pay their share. At present, infrastructure benefits for local communities are typically secured from major developments only.

Councils will need to draw up long-term costed infrastructure plans in order to apply the new levy. Those plans will need to be consulted on and tested to ensure the levy supports growth. Detailed arrangements will be set out in secondary legislation. The Government will continue to work closely with the main developer and local government bodies during the passage of the Bill as we draft regulations. We want to build on the innovative arrangements that some authorities have introduced, learning from their experience and providing a clearer and firmer footing for best practice.

## DEFENCE

### Nimrod XV230

**The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne):** In addition to my oral statement to the House today, I am taking this opportunity to provide the House with further details of the findings of the Royal Air Force board of inquiry into the tragic crash of the RAF Nimrod XV230.

On 2 September 2006, Nimrod XV230 took off from its deployed operating base at 0913 GMT, en route to Southern Afghanistan. It was on an essential operational flight in support of Coalition forces. At 1111:33, approximately 90 seconds after receiving 22,000 lbs of fuel from a Tristar tanker, the crew experienced almost simultaneous bomb bay fire and elevator bay smoke warnings. Smoke was observed in the cabin coming from both the elevator and aileron bays. Shortly afterwards, the aircraft depressurised. The crew commenced emergency drills immediately and at 1114:10 transmitted a MAYDAY alert and turned to head for Kandahar airfield. At 1116:54, the aircraft was observed by a Harrier GR7 pilot, apparently in a controlled descent, with flames emitting from the starboard wing root and starboard aft fuselage. Members of a Canadian Army unit also observed the aircraft as it passed to the south of their position. At 1117:39, the Harrier GR7 pilot reported that the aircraft had exploded and he observed wreckage striking the ground. The crash site was approximately 14 nautical miles west of Kandahar airfield, some 400 metres north-west of the village of Farhellah.

A combat search and rescue team deployed to the crash site at 1207 and confirmed that there were no survivors. At 1257, the Canadian unit which had observed the aircraft's final descent arrived and secured the crash site. At 1430, they were reinforced by a 22 man patrol from 34 Squadron RAF Regiment. The crash site lay in a depression, surrounded by higher ground containing housing and, as such, was not easy to defend. The crew's bodies, personal effects and classified items were recovered as a priority.

The following morning the Canadian unit was withdrawn to support other Coalition forces engaged in fighting with the Taliban, at which point several hundred locals began to enter the site. The security situation began to deteriorate rapidly and at 0910 the RAF regiment patrol was withdrawn by air. The majority of the wreckage was removed within a short period of time, probably by local nationals.

A board of inquiry (BOI) was convened to investigate the crash with an experienced ex-Nimrod Wing Commander nominated as its president, supported by two squadron leaders from the Nimrod force headquarters at RAF Kinloss. The board members were not able to visit the crash site due to the security situation in the area and had to rely on evidence collected by the units who initially secured the crash site and interviews with key witnesses. Crucially, the accident data recorder and a badly damaged section of the mission tape (containing crew intercom recordings and position information) were recovered. This allowed the inquiry team to reconstruct as far as possible the events leading up to the crash.

The board, using a combination of evidence collected in theatre and expert analysis, concluded that, as air-to-air refuelling drew to a close, fuel escaped. This was either as a result of the action of a pressure-relief device in the main fuel tank, leading to an overflow of fuel during air to air refuelling, or from a leak in a fuel coupling within the fuel system This fuel moved rearwards, either internally or along the outside of the fuselage. It was then ignited following contact with an element of the aircraft's hot air system. The fuel probably gained access to the pipe at a gap between two types of insulation. The subsequent fire penetrated the pressure hull, causing the aircraft to depressurise and also probably began to weaken the starboard wing. The aircraft's hydraulic systems probably failed in the latter stages of the incident as a result of the fire and the flying controls were probably similarly affected.

After about five minutes, the fuel in the tank located at the base of the starboard wing, having been subjected to intense heat, began to boil. The tank began to breach and eventually ruptured, provoking a boiling liquid, expanding vapour explosion (BLEVE). At a height of about 1,000 feet above ground level, the weakened aircraft began to break apart into four large parts, which struck the ground. The board was unable to determine whether the BLEVE provoked the aircraft's break-up, or whether the BLEVE was a result of the aircraft' s break-up.

The board of inquiry found that the crew were all on duty and were properly trained, qualified and authorised. They had arrived at their deployed operating base on 21 August and had flown three sorties since their arrival, the last being on 27 August. The crew were all medically fit and considered to have been adequately rested prior to the sortie. The aircraft had not exhibited any significant faults while in theatre.

The board found no evidence that the maintenance or servicing conducted on the aircraft was a cause or contributory factor in the loss of XV230. It also

concluded that, while the continued commitment to long term operations places pressure on the Nimrod force, there was no evidence of that this was a cause or factor in the loss of the aircraft.

Following the crash, and in conjunction with the board of inquiry's investigations, a number of measures have been taken to ensure the continued safe operation of the aircraft. Additional maintenance and safety checks have been carried out on all of the Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. Action has been taken to de-activate possible sources of ignition and enhanced inspection regime put in place to examine for signs of fuel leakage. We will be reviewing the Nimrod safety case and conducting an aging aircraft audit of the aircraft's systems.

We have continued to adapt our Nimrod force maintenance and operating procedures in response to the emerging findings of the board of inquiry and the lessons identified from ongoing operations in the Middle East and the United Kingdom, just as we would for any other aircraft.

The Chief of the Air Staff's professional judgment is that, taking all these measures into account, the Nimrod aircraft fleet remains safe to fly. I have accepted his assurance on this and his opinion that all necessary safety measures have been implemented.

The board of inquiry made 33 recommendations in total, relating to maintenance policy, the fuel and hot air systems, air to air refuelling, operational issues, aircraft modifications, post crash management, engineering and personnel. Twenty one of these recommendations have been accepted outright by the chain of command. Eight of the recommendations are actively being considered. One recommendation (Recommendation 5, to determine a specific life for fuel seals) has not proved possible to implement but mitigating action has been taken.

One recommendation (Recommendation 17, to investigate the utility of parachute escape on Nimrod aircraft) has not been taken forward as it is not considered feasible. One recommendation (Recommendation 20, to review the design of No.1 fuel tank) has not been taken forward but the issue it sought to solve has been addressed by other means. One recommendation (Recommendation 28, to increase the RAF's stocks of BOI kits) has not been taken forward because BOI kits could be made available from Royal Navy and Army holdings.

The detailed recommendations of the BOI and the chain of command's response to them, are as follows:

*1. The Nimrod maintenance policy is reviewed to ensure that maintenance procedures reflect the increasing age of the aircraft.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*2. The Nimrod ageing aircraft audit is reviewed to include aircraft systems.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*3. The Nimrod safety case is reviewed, reassessing the factual data used for interpretation and categorization of hazard and risk.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*4. A safety review of the Nimrod fuel and hot air systems is completed.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*5. A life for the FRS Series 1 fuel seal be determined, based on the designer's recommendation that fitted seals are replaced after 25 years.*

The recommendation that fuel seals be given a specific life has not been accepted because experts advise the life of seals will vary considerably, according to the conditions of their installation in the aircraft. Further studies have yet to identify any predictable ageing mechanism and it has therefore been impossible to define a common finite life for the approximately 400 fuel seals fitted to the Nimrod aircraft. Experience shows that replacing fuel seals may actually introduce more problems than it solves.

*6. A maximum installed life for fuel seals of other material types is determined.*

This recommendation is under consideration. A review is being conducted to determine whether the regulations for the lifing of seals are adequate.

*7. A one-off inspection of the integrity of each Nimrod's fuel system, between Ribs 3 starboard and port, be conducted with access panels removed and the system pressurised.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*8. An inspection regime for fuel seals be initiated as recommended by Eaton Aerospace.*

This recommendation has been accepted. A comprehensive inspection of fuel couplings is also underway.

*9. A procedure is developed to pressure test the fuel vent system at the fuselage to wing interface.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*10. Detailed instructions for the correct fitting and locking of FRS couplings and seals be incorporated formally within the Nimrod AMM and publicized widely.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*11. Hot air system. Existing limitations, prohibiting the use of the supplementary conditioning pack (SCP) and of the cross-feed pipe in the air be continued.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*12. Nimrod air-to-air refuelling (AAR) procedures are reviewed in the light of the board's report, to establish appropriate levels and rates of refuel, which will prevent overspill of fuel from tanks.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*13. A study be initiated to determine the cause of pressure surges during air-to-air refuelling and their long-term effect on aircraft fuel systems.*

The feasibility of the recommendation is being examined and a technical proposal on how this could be implemented has been requested.

*14. A statement specifying that the maximum normal operating pressure of 50 psi during air-to-air refuelling be reintroduced into the Nimrod aircrew manual.*

The recommendation has been accepted.

*15. Air-to-air refuelling refuel rates in the dynamic simulator are changed to reflect actual refuel rates to provide more realistic training.*

This recommendation is under consideration.

*16. Existing limitations, prohibiting the use of the No. 7 fuel tanks, introduced following the loss of XV230, be discontinued.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*17. A study be undertaken into the utility of parachute escape on the Nimrod MR2.*

This recommendation has not been taken forward. The Nimrod has no airborne escape system as it was not designed for the deployment of parachutes. It is highly likely that any attempt to abandon the aircraft from the front or rear exit would result in either being pulled into the engine or hitting the tail of the aircraft.

*18. Nimrod STANEVAL[1] consider the lessons identified at annex P (Description of crew actions during the emergency) and their potential impact on crew emergency procedures.*

This recommendation has been accepted

*19. The port rear emergency oxygen bottle is relocated to a more central position, or another oxygen bottle is provided in this position.*

The feasibility of the recommendation is being examined and a technical proposal on how this could be implemented has been requested,

*20. The design of No. 1 fuel tank is reviewed to reduce the effect of asymmetric filling.*

It is not currently intended to review the design of the Nol fuel tank as this problem has been resolved by only refuelling the No 1 tank to a level well below that which could initiate the safety valve.

*21. The outlet pipes for fuselage fuel tank blow-off valves be modified to ensure that biown-off fuel cannot run down the exterior of the fuselage.*

The feasibility of the recommendation is being examined and a technical proposal on how this could be implemented has been requested.

*22. The connections of the No. 1 tank vent pipes be modified to reduce the risk of fuel leakage.*

The feasibility of the recommendation is being examined and a technical proposal on how this could be implemented has been requested.

*23. The drainage of the lower panel in the No 7 tank dry bay be improved to prevent any accumulation of fuel.*

The feasibility of the recommendation is being examined and a technical proposal on how this could be implemented has been requested. In the meantime the likelihood of a hazard arising from fuel pooling in this area has been significantly reduced by suspending the use of the supplementary conditioning pack and cross-feed pipe system and introducing the enhanced inspection regime.

*24. A crash-protected means of recording aircraft position and intercom voice is introduced to the Nimrod.*

This recommendation is under consideration.

*25. The Defence Aviation Safety Centre (DASC) should investigate the provision of details of type specific emergency equipment (ADR, etc) and key internal components (for example the ADR tape unit and housing) on their website to enable post-crash MOD Incident Officer (PCMIO) to provide guidance to search teams.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*26. Instructions for PCMIO are revised to provide guidance when attending crash sites that are likely to become inaccessible.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*27. Instructions for PCMIO at crash sites which are likely to become inaccessible should include advice to make every effort to ensure the widest possible photographic coverage of the crash site, at the highest possible resolution. This should take priority over all other tasks for any photographic team.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*28. DASC should increase their current stock of post-crash BOI kits.*

This recommendation has not been accepted. We currently hold four post-crash BOI kits, if, in the unlikely circumstance that a fifth BOI post crash kit is required the RAF could borrow a kit from one of the other services.

*29. Body bag fluid proof liners should be stored within the outer ruggedised bags in crash kits to ensure that they always arrive on scene together.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*30. The Nimrod MOD Form 700 Sections 2 and 3 (F703/F704) should be copied and retained before the document is carried on the aircraft.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*31. The use of non-approved mission system panel blanks be discontinued.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*32. Consideration be given to reinstating the SOI (Wg Cdr) engineering post in Forward at RAF Kinloss to provide senior oversight of station engineering matters.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

*33. A review of engineering training is undertaken to identify those areas which, while relevant to Nimrod capability, are not encompassed within existing formal training courses.*

This recommendation has been accepted.

[1] Standard Evaluation Team

## HEALTH

### Authorisations of NHS Foundation Trusts

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw):** The chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) announced last week that, in accordance with section 35 of the National Health Service Act 2006, Monitor had decided to authorise the following NHS acute and mental health trusts as NHS foundation trusts from 1 December:

Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust;

Lancashire Care NHS Trust;

Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust;

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust.

Monitor's announcement brings the total number of NHS foundation trusts to 83. A copy of Monitor's press notice has been placed in the Library.

The Government remain committed to offering all NHS acute and mental health trusts the opportunity to apply for foundation status as soon as practicable. Monitor is now authorising trusts on a monthly basis, and further waves of NHS foundation trusts are set to follow.

## TRANSPORT

### Bus Passenger Representative Body Consultation

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton):** I have today launched a public consultation on a proposed new bus passenger representative body. The public consultation, which will run until 17 March, identifies options for delivering a passenger champion. These options are to work with existing bus passenger bodies, to establish a new stand-alone statutory bus passenger champion body or to establish a multimodal public transport users' committee including widening the functions of Passenger Focus (the rail passengers' council).

Feedback from a previous consultation on the Government's proposals for the draft Local Transport Bill and reform of the traffic commissioners was that a lack of a publicly recognised national body to represent passenger interests and hold the industry to account contributes to a failure to address poor bus services. We have listened to those who argue for this formal representation and believe that the time is now right to provide a more visible and influential voice for bus passengers.

Some of the options require legislation which is contained in the Local Transport Bill. This, if enacted, includes provisions which would enable the Secretary of State, in secondary legislation, either to set up a new public transport users' committee or to confer additional functions relating to buses and coaches to the existing Rail Passengers Council (Passenger Focus). The other options would not require further legislation.

Copies of the consultation have been placed in the Library of both Houses and in the Vote Office.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (5-6 December)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt):** The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 5 December in Brussels. I will be representing the UK except for the items on the working time directive and the agency workers directive where the UK will be represented by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Health and consumer affairs issues are being taken on 6 December.

The presidency hopes to reach agreement on an amended proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/88/EC concerning certain aspects of the organisation of Working Time (9554/05 (formerly 12683/04). UK priorities remain a solution to the problems caused by the ECJ *SiMAP* and *Jaeger* judgments, and the retention of the individual right to opt out of the 48-hour maximum working week, without unnecessary restrictions. The UK is still analysing a new draft proposal from the presidency, but believe it is a step forward in that it no longer contains text that envisages the end of the opt-out. In addition previous text addressing the issues raised by the *SiMAP* and *Jaeger* judgments has not been changed in a way in which we would disagree.

The draft Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on working conditions for temporary workers (15098/02 (24066)) is also on the agenda. The UK has welcomed the restarting of the debate on this draft Directive. The UK continues to support the underlying principles of the draft Directive and wants a Directive that gives appropriate protections to agency workers without putting their jobs at risk. However, there remain outstanding issues for the UK (and other member states) that need to be addressed.

The presidency also hopes to get political agreement on a directive for improving the acquisition and preservation of supplementary pension rights which aims to improve the mobility of workers within the EU by reducing concerns over how pension rights are treated. When someone changes employment, the pension rights they have already built up should be protected to remove this barrier to labour mobility. The UK supports the current text, but there are serious outstanding issues for some other delegations.

The Council will have a policy debate on social services of general interest, where the commission has proposed a broad exchange of good practice. The UK view is that public services should be organised and regulated as closely as possible to the citizens and that the principle of subsidiarity must be strictly respected.

The Council will aim to agree a partial general approach on the latest instalment of an implementing regulation for social security co-ordination Regulation 883/04 and on corresponding content for annex XI to that Regulation. The UK is content.

The Council will seek to endorse the employment committee's opinion on the European employment strategy in the context of the Lisbon strategy. This text is uncontroversial and the UK supports it.

There will be an endorsement of the joint EU Employment Committee (EMCO) and Social Protection Committee (SPC) opinion on the common principles of Flexicurity, a combination of flexibility and security in labour markets and incorporating modern social security systems and lifelong learning. The joint opinion of the EMCO and SPC makes minor proposals for changes to the common principles set out in the Commission communication dated 27 June 2007. The UK supports this text.

The Council will seek adoption of five sets of conclusions on Flexicurity; the European employment strategy; modernising social protection for greater social justice and economic cohesion; on the Commission communication taking forward the active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market, implementation of the Beijing platform for action, and the balanced roles of women and men for jobs, growth and social cohesion. The UK supports these texts.

The Council will also seek adoption of a resolution on the follow-up to the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for all. The UK supports the text.

Under Any Other Business, there will be reports from the presidency of recent presidency conferences, the draft Council conclusions on trafficking in human

beings and the draft Council resolution on new skills for new jobs. There will also be reports by the Commission on the Commission's communications on a new social vision for 21st century Europe and modernising labour law.

On 6 December, there will be a joint Council meeting with the justice and home affairs Council, at which there will be a policy debate on migration, employment and the Lisbon strategy. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier) will represent the UK.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Housing and Regeneration Bill Contingency Fund

**The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper):** I wish to inform Parliament that Communities and Local Government has obtained approval for an advance from the Contingencies Fund to allow the early recruitment and appointment of chief executives and chairs, with support arrangements, for the Homes and Communities Agency and the social housing regulator after completion of Second Reading of the Housing and Regeneration Bill in the House of Commons, and before Royal Assent.

The Homes and Communities Agency will bring together the current work and programmes of the Housing Corporation, English Partnerships and a significant part of Communities and Local Government's own housing programmes.

The social housing regulator will encompass the current regulatory functions of the Housing Corporation and implement the recommendations of the Cave review.

Bringing forward this expenditure through a Contingencies Fund advance will enable efficiency savings to be achieved earlier and will provide significant reductions in public spending.

Parliamentary approval will be sought in the 2008-09 main estimate for CLG for additional resources of £930,000 for detailed operational work to establish the new agency and regulator while maintaining business as usual so it can be up and running by April 2009. Pending that approval, and Royal Assent of the Housing and Regeneration Bill, urgent expenditure estimated at £930,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

[*This statement was originally tabled for 3 December 2007*]

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Wednesday 5 December 2007*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Building Regulations 2000 and the Building (Approved Inspectors etc) Regulations 2000

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright):** I have today laid a statutory instrument, the Building and Approved Inspectors (Amendment) Regulations 2007, which amends the requirements relating to the commissioning of fixed building services in Part L (conservation of fuel and power) of Schedule 1 to, and Schedules 2A (self-certification schemes) and 2B (circumstances where there is no requirement to notify a building control body of work to be undertaken) to, the Building Regulations 2000.

The principal change to Part L is to clarify the requirements for the energy efficiency of fixed building services such as heating, hot water service, air-conditioning, ventilation and lighting systems to ensure that the systems are designed, installed and tested and adjusted to operate at a reasonable level of energy efficiency. This change, along with the changes to the requirements relating to commissioning of these services, should result in a higher level of energy efficiency at no additional cost to building owners.

The principal changes to Schedule 2B are to clarify the types of minor work that can be carried out without the involvement of a building control body with no risk to health, safety or energy efficiency. In all cases where the installation of appliances or components would require testing and adjustment of the system to reach a reasonable level of energy efficiency the work will remain notifiable to ensure that this is done properly.

The regulations also amend Schedule 2A in order to authorise two new self-certification schemes and to allow self-certification of larger solid fuel appliances so that the installation of such appliances using biomass as a fuel can be self-certified as compliant. These changes will help secure compliance and reduce the overall burden on building control bodies.

Revised guidance on the relevant parts of the building regulations, some of which will be in draft form and subject to consultation before being finalised, will be issued shortly.

### Local Government

**The Minister for Local Government (John Healey):** On 25 July 2007 I announced to the House the nine unitary proposals that the Secretary of State was minded to implement, having considered all the available relevant information, if and when the necessary provisions of the then Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill were enacted. In four cases—proposals from Bedford Borough Council, Chester City Council, Exeter City Council, and Ipswich Borough Council—we recognised that there were risks to their achieving the outcomes specified by the affordability criterion. We asked these councils to undertake further work and submit additional information on the financial viability of their proposals.

I also announced that the Secretary of State was minded to request the Boundary Committee of the Electoral Commission to advise on Norwich City Council's proposal, and not to implement the remaining 16 unitary proposals that we had received in response to our Invitation to Councils issued on 26 October 2006.

That invitation reflected our belief that introducing unitary local government is a way of removing the weaknesses found in many existing council structures based on county, district, and parish tiers. Those existing structures often add to public confusion, create fragmented and sometimes competing local leadership, and lead to duplication, inefficiency and co-ordination failures in service delivery.

Since July we have received a range of further information and representations about the unitary proposals, including in the case of the four proposals on which we sought additional financial information. The relevant provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 came into effect on 1 November.

The Secretary of State is therefore now able to take her decisions as to which unitary proposals to implement under her statutory powers. The basis of these decisions is the Secretary of State's assessment of the proposals against the five criteria set out in the original invitation, and which now have the status under the 2007 Act of guidance to which councils should have had regard when making their proposals.

These five criteria are that if change is made and new unitary structures are implemented, then that change should be affordable (first criterion); and be supported by a broad cross section of partners and stakeholders (second criterion); and that the future structures should provide strong, effective and accountable strategic leadership (third criterion); deliver genuine opportunities for neighbourhood flexibility and empowerment (fourth criterion); and deliver value for money and equity on public services (fifth criterion).

On this basis, having considered all the information and representations now available to her, including all the additional material that she has received since July, the Secretary of State has decided to confirm her earlier "minded to" decisions in all cases, except, as explained below, for the unitary proposals from Exeter city council and Ipswich borough council. In the cases of the Bedfordshire and Cheshire proposals we plan to take decisions in the near future.

Accordingly, she has decided to implement without modification the five unitary proposals listed in table 1 below. Her judgment is that there is a reasonable likelihood that all these proposals, if implemented, will achieve the outcomes specified by the five criteria.

*Unitary Proposals to be Implemented*

| *Councils Submitting Proposals* | *Proposed Unitary Structure* |
|---|---|
| Cornwall County Council | County Unitary |
| Durham County Council | County Unitary |
| Northumberland County Council | County Unitary |
| Shropshire County Council | County Unitary |
| Wiltshire County Council | County Unitary |

We believe that these proposals provide for new and innovative local governance in each of the areas concerned, combining both strong strategic councils and effective arrangements for empowering communities at the most local level. They thus take further the concept of unitary local government developed in the 1990s. They open the door to the creation of new flagship councils which can lead the way on empowering citizens and communities, promoting prosperity, and modernising local service delivery to achieve both greater efficiencies and better outcomes. In the areas concerned the number of councils will be reduced from 33 to 5. On the basis of councils' current estimates, the savings from these five proposals, once implemented, will be over £75 million annually, giving councils opportunities for improved services or lower council taxes.

Further, the Secretary of State has decided to take no action on the 14 unitary proposals listed in table 2 below which were received in response to the original invitation. Her judgment is that there is not a reasonable likelihood of these proposals, if implemented, achieving the outcomes specified by all the five criteria.

*Unitary Proposals on which no Action is to be Taken*

| *Councils Submitting Proposals* | *Proposed Unitary Structure* |
|---|---|
| Burnley BC & Pendle BC | Burnley and Pendle Unitary |
| Cornwall Districts | County Unitary |
| Cumbria Council | County Unitary |
| Durham Districts | County Unitary |
| East Riding Districts | East Riding and Selby Unitary |
| Ellesmere Port and Neston | 3 Unitary Cheshire |
| Lancaster City Council | Lancaster Unitary |
| Mid Beds DC & South Beds DC | Unitary covering both Districts |
| North Yorkshire County Council | County Unitary |
| Northumberland Districts | 2 unitary Northumberland |
| Oxford City Council | 3 Unitary Oxfordshire |
| Preston City Council | Preston Unitary |
| Somerset County Council | County Unitary |
| South Somerset DC | East Somerset Unitary |

In addition, the Secretary of State has decided under the 2007 Act to request the Boundary Committee of the Electoral Commission to advise on Norwich city council's proposal. She judges that there is not a reasonable likelihood of that proposal, based on the city's current boundaries, if implemented, achieving all the outcomes specified by the five criteria.

In relation to the unitary proposals from Exeter city council and Ipswich borough council, having regard to the additional material received since in July, we judge that these proposals are not reasonably likely to achieve the outcomes specified by the affordability criterion. Accordingly, the Secretary of State's judgment now is that there is not a reasonable likelihood of them, if implemented, achieving the outcomes specified by all the five criteria. We believe, having regard to the circumstances of Exeter and Ipswich, and the strengths of their proposals in other respects, that there could be alternative unitary proposals covering the whole or part of their wider county area which would achieve those outcomes.

The Secretary of State has thus decided under the 2007 Act to request the Boundary Committee to advise on the Exeter city council and Ipswich borough council unitary proposals, along with Norwich city council's proposal. She intends to specify in her request that the matters on which the Committee's advice is sought include whether for the areas affected by these proposals—in each case the city or borough area and the remaining county area—there could be alternative unitary solutions, involving boundary changes, that would meet the five criteria set out in the original invitation.

Under the terms of the Act, it is open to the Boundary Committee, if it sees fit, to make alternative proposals that cross existing county boundaries. We intend our guidance under the 2007 Act to highlight the possibility of the Committee making alternative proposals, which may cross the existing Norfolk/Suffolk county boundary or involve changes to the boundaries of the existing Devon unitaries—Plymouth city and Torbay borough.

Under the Act the Boundary Committee may in respect of unitary proposals referred to it, recommend that that unitary proposal is implemented, is not implemented, or it may make alternative unitary proposals which may cover a wider area. If it considers it appropriate to submit alternative unitary proposals, the Committee has the flexibility it may need under the Act to make unitary proposals on different boundaries which are robust and sustainable and that reflect fully the communities and circumstances of the areas concerned.

In the case of the unitary proposals from Bedford borough council and Bedfordshire county council, I explained to the House on 19 November that the Secretary of State was minded to implement the borough council's proposal and that she had invited the other councils in Bedfordshire by 17 December to make a proposal for future unitary local government structures in the remainder of the county area. Once we have received and, following any appropriate consultation, assessed any responses to this further invitation, we intend to take our statutory decisions about unitary proposals for Bedfordshire. Meanwhile, on the basis of the information currently available to her, the Secretary of State remains minded to implement Bedford borough council's proposal.

In the case of the unitary proposals for Cheshire, these involve particularly complex issues. There are alternative proposals for the whole area concerned which, in July as I confirmed to the House, we judged both reasonably likely to achieve the outcomes specified in the five criteria. We have received a very large volume of detailed information and representations about these proposals since July. We are still considering this material, and may need to seek further clarification on certain matters including from those that have submitted the material. Accordingly, we are deferring today any decisions about these proposals, and intend to make those decisions as soon as we can.

To give effect to our decisions to implement unitary proposals we intend shortly to lay before the House draft Orders under the 2007 Act. Subject to both

Houses approving the drafts, we will make the orders as soon as practicable which will provide for the establishment of new unitary local government from 1 April 2009 in the areas concerned, and for key transitional arrangements, including first elections to the new unitary councils. Following consultation with each area's existing councils, our intention is for May 2008 elections in Durham, and Northumberland, and May 2009 elections in Cornwall, Shropshire, and Wiltshire. We expect the Electoral Commission to have put in place new electoral divisions or wards prior to any 2009 elections.

We also intend, following further consultation with councils and other stakeholders, including the trades unions, to make regulations under the 2007 Act making further provision about transitional arrangements, including arrangements for staff, the transfer of assets and liabilities, and finance.

We are committed to applying the principles of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE). Our intention is that all the protections that would apply under the TUPE Regulations will apply, together with all that the regulations imply in relation to procedure, as if TUPE legally applied. Our aim, therefore, is that employees' terms and conditions in the new unitary council will be no less favourable than those which would apply under their existing employer. We expect all affected councils to have early discussions with the trades unions on staffing issues arising from restructuring.

We expect that the appointment of the new unitary councils' chief executives will be by open competition. We also expect all the new unitary councils to approach their senior appointments on the basis of creating a fresh senior management team fit to lead the new council in its new role.

Overall through the implementation orders and proposed regulations we intend to create a clear and robust framework for implementation. Within that framework in each area concerned it is now for all the councils—their members and employees—to work constructively and imaginatively together to deliver a new unitary council that will achieve its full potential for local residents. Local people will rightly expect nothing less than its successful delivery. This is the task now for local government.

## HEALTH

### Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (5-6 December 2007)

**The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo):** The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will meet on 5 and 6 December 2007. The Health and Consumer Affairs part of the Council will be taken on 6 December.

Items on the main agenda are: health and migration in the European Union; the EU health strategy; a commission communication on organ donation and transplantation; an EU strategy on nutrition, overweight and obesity and a progress report on combating HIV/AIDS within the EU and in the neighbouring countries.

Ministers will have a policy debate on the EU health strategy and will be asked to adopt draft council conclusions on this. The Commission's proposals aim to develop a strategy for the period 2008-13 for actions at EU level that will add most value to member states' health priorities. The UK is broadly supportive of the strategy, that focuses on many of the UK's own priorities for EU action and can support the conclusions.

There will also be a debate on health and migration in the EU and the presidency will ask Ministers to adopt draft council conclusions on this issue. The Portuguese presidency chose health and migration as their theme in recognition of the fact that migrant populations are often exposed to health inequalities. The UK broadly supports their conclusions.

Also tabled for adoption are council conclusions on a Commission White Paper on a strategy for Europe on nutrition, overweight and obesity-related issues, and a Commission communication on organ donation and transplantation. The UK is fully supportive of these conclusions as drafted. There will also be a presidency progress report on combating HIV/AIDS within the EU and in the neighbouring countries.

Over lunch, the presidency will chair an informal ministerial discussion on the Commission's forthcoming proposals for a community framework on health services.

Under any other business, there will be information from the presidency on their presidency health conferences and on draft council conclusions on environment and health, which are to be discussed in the Environmental Council later this month. There will also be information items from the Commission on a community framework on health services; a strategy for Europe on mental health, health security related matters, the Commission's high-level group on health services and medical care and the framework convention on tobacco control, and the Slovenian delegation will provide information on the work programme for their forthcoming presidency.

### Stroke Strategy for England

**The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson):** The Department is publishing today a new national strategy to modernise service provision and deliver the newest treatments for stroke. Between 9 July and 12 October 2007, a consultation on a draft document was held, and over 1,000 responses were made, of which more than 800 were from individuals who had experienced stroke and their carers. These responses have helped to shape the development of the new strategy.

The strategy is constructed around twenty "quality markers" of a good stroke service covering four key areas: raising awareness and prevention; the importance of rapid assessment and treatment; provision of rehabilitation and care after stroke; and developing the workforce to meet these markers.

*Awareness*: A push on raising awareness of stroke symptoms among the public and the medical profession to ensure they know to react quickly—alongside wider work to encourage and support healthy lifestyles and manage risk indicators such as high blood pressure and cholesterol.

*Acting on the warnings*: Transient ischaemic attacks (TIA)—also known as "minor strokes"—are a clear warning sign that

a further stroke may occur and the time window for action is very short. In about half of cases this is a matter of days.

*Stroke as a medical emergency*: Getting people to the right hospital quickly—where there are specialists who can deliver acute treatments including thrombolysis—will save lives. This means immediate transfer of suspected stroke patients to specialist centres—offering clinical assessment, scans and thrombolysis.

*Stroke unit quality*: Stroke unit care is the single biggest factor that can improve a person's outcomes following a stroke. Successful stroke units are those which are able to meet the needs of the individuals. People must get there on day one and spend the majority of their time on a stroke unit.

*Improving support long term in the community*: This focuses particularly on intensive rehabilitation immediately after stroke, which can limit disability and improve recovery. Health, social care and voluntary services need to work together provide the long-term support people need, as well as access to advocacy, care navigation, practical and peer support.

*Workforce*: People with stroke need to be treated by a skilled and competent workforce. Resources to assist services in planning their workforce requirements are signposted in this strategy. Central funding will be made available for more stroke physician training places and training packages, in particular for specialist nurses and allied health professionals.

*Service improvement*: This new vision for stroke care demands services working together in networks, looking across all aspects of the care pathway.

The strategy has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

### "Valuing People Now"

**The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson):** The Department has published the consultation document "Valuing People Now—From Progress to Transformation". The document has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

The document seeks people's views on the priorities for learning disability for the next three years, 2008 to 2011. It builds on the vision set out in "Valuing People" (2001) which was the first White Paper on learning disability for 30—a vision based on the four main principles of rights, independence, choice and inclusion. The consultation document recognises that the vision set out in "Valuing People" was right; it also recognises that consideration needs to be given to new issues that were not covered in "Valuing People" and how we keep the agenda moving in the right direction as we move to tackle some of the key challenges in reaching equality of access and citizenship.

"Valuing People Now—From Progress to Transformation" is a cross-government consultation setting out the agenda across a range of issues including health and well-being, housing, employment, education and community inclusion. The House is aware of some of the deeply disturbing and unacceptable reports that there have been about the treatment of people with learning disabilities and the failure to ensure their fundamental rights and choices as members of our society. It is vital that not only do we see an end to cases such as those, but that real change is achieved to ensure that people with learning disabilities have equality of citizenship through independent living. This consultation seeks people's views on what the priorities should be over the next three years, how we can deliver on those priorities and how we will know that we are achieving change.

The consultation will run until 11 March 2008 with a view to my Department setting out proposals for the next three years, based on the responses that we receive to the consultation, in a document to be published by summer 2008.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Procedures

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier):** I am pleased to announce that Dr Judy MacArthur Clark CBE DVMS DLAS DipLAM FIBiol MRCVS has been appointed as the next Chief Inspector of the Home Office Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate. She will succeed Dr Derek Fry BA MA DPhil BM BCh, who is retiring. Dr MacArthur Clark is a distinguished veterinary surgeon whose past appointments include Chair of the Farm Animals Welfare Council and President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. I would also like to record my thanks to Dr Fry for his many years of dedicated service to the Inspectorate. Dr MacArthur Clark will take up appointment on 10 December 2007.

### Immigration (Migration Reform)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** Over the next year, the Government will bring in the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for over 40 years. As part of this, key aspects of our migration reform programme are being announced today, including: a statement of intent which sets out how the points system will work for highly skilled migrants; two consultation documents—one on proposals to tackle forced marriage, and another on proposals to introduce a pre-entry English language requirement for spouses; and the results of an initial consultation on simplifying immigration law.

*Statement of intent for highly skilled migrants:*

One of the key changes to reform migration will include a firmer, faster and fairer Australian-style points system. The new system will be simpler and more transparent, ensuring that only those migrants Britain needs can come to work or study in the UK. We are creating a unified border force, bringing together the Border and Immigration Agency, Customs and UK Visas. The new agency will provide tougher policing at ports and airports with a highly visible uniformed presence, counting all migrants in and out of the UK; and we are introducing compulsory identity cards for foreign nationals, meaning that we will know who is here and what they are entitled to do.

We will launch the points system in under 100 days, beginning with highly skilled migrants and sponsor registration. The statement of intent sets out how the

points system will work for highly skilled migrants, showing how points will be awarded and the robust checks that will be made on applications.

The economic benefits of migration are clear. Migrants put far more into the treasury purse than they take out; migrants contributed an estimated 15-20 per cent. to the UK's growth in 2001-2005—worth around £6 billion to output growth in 2006. Highly skilled migrants are key to Britain winning these benefits, filling crucial roles in financial and public services, education and health, ICT and business. Following the success of the existing highly skilled migrant programme, the purpose of the highly skilled tier of the points system is to attract and retain the most talented migrants who have the most to contribute economically.

The points system will simplify around 80 immigration routes into just 5 tiers:

| | |
|---|---|
| Tier 1 | Highly skilled individuals to contribute to growth and productivity. |
| Tier 2 | Skilled workers with a job offer to fill gaps in the UK labour force. |
| Tier 3 | Low-skilled workers to fill specific temporary labour shortages. This tier will be introduced only if there is a specific need. |
| Tier 4 | Students. |
| Tier 5 | Youth mobility and temporary workers: people coming to the UK to satisfy primarily non-economic objectives. |

The highly skilled tier will replace eight current immigration routes. This tier is designed to admit highly skilled individuals who wish to come here to work, to set up or join a business, investors, and international students who have studied here and wish to seek employment. It will embrace:

| | |
|---|---|
| General | incorporating the highly skilled migrants programme. |
| Entrepreneurs | combining the current "Business People" and "Innovators" categories. |
| Investors | incorporating the current "Investors" category. |
| Post Study Work | bringing together two staying-on schemes for international graduates who have studied in Scotland and the rest of the UK. This will boost the UK's attractiveness as a place to study, bringing benefits to our educational establishments. |

The points system replaces subjective decision making with an objective transparent process that is more robust against abuse. Highly skilled applicants will need to show they have enough points to qualify to enter or remain in the UK. Highly skilled applicants will earn points for their skills and potential for economic success, competence in English language and ability to support themselves and their dependents. The points pass mark for the highly skilled tier of the points system will be informed by the work of the Migration Advisory Committee on economic needs and that of the migration impacts forum on the wider effects of migration.

We are publishing this document today so that those affected can prepare. The document explains the transitional arrangements that will be put in place to handle the transfer from old to new systems. We are also giving people the opportunity to comment on them. Statements of intent about skilled, temporary and student migrants will follow next year.

*Marriage to partners from overseas*

The consultations on proposals to tackle forced marriage and to introduce a pre-entry English language requirement for spouses fulfil the promises made in our strategy "Securing the UK Border", published in March 2007, to consult on new arrangements for marriage visas, including an English language requirement. Copies of the consultation documents have been placed in the Library of the House.

Forced marriage is a form of aggression that puts women in particular at risk of harm and of being exploited. The Home Office together with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has already made progress in tackling forced marriage by creating the forced marriage unit in 2005. The unit handles up to 300 cases per year. Around a third of the cases involve children, some as young as 13. We believe that increased protection against coercion and potentially violent or abusive situations is called for. The problem of forced marriage has not disappeared and so we feel it is right to take measures to protect vulnerable people from these pressures.

The Government are aware that this is a topic with many sensitive aspects but three principles stand out as important. First, no one should be pressurised into sponsoring a marriage visa. Secondly, those who wish to sponsor a marriage partner from overseas should be encouraged to establish an independent adult life here first and to see that as an important way of helping their partner integrate. Thirdly, spouses who are abandoned by a person they have sponsored are entitled to an assurance that their sponsorship will not be abused for further advantages.

We recognise that forced marriage is not the same as arranged marriage. The Government are not expressing any concern about arranged marriages, which we know to be a part of many cultural traditions, and which involve the consent of both parties. But young British citizens must never be forced into relationships they do not want at a time in their lives when they could be establishing themselves as adults through further education or through work.

For this reason, one of the proposals we are suggesting is that the minimum age at which a person can sponsor a marriage partner from overseas should be raised from 18 to 21. The same minimum age would apply to the person being sponsored.

We are also considering introducing a code of practice which would say how an application for a marriage visa should progress if one of the parties is identified as vulnerable. This would build on work carried out by entry clearance officers in relation to in-depth interviews with couples. It would enable views to be given in confidence and assess whether sufficient scope had been given to protect the potentially vulnerable party.

We are also looking at whether we should do more to investigate allegations of abuse of marriage for immigration advantage after entry; how this might be investigated and what other provisions might be necessary for safeguarding women in particular after the entry of a sponsored spouse.

The consultation on the proposal to introduce a pre-entry English language requirement for spouses discusses the key issues around how a requirement of

this nature might work in practice. People who apply for a marriage visa principally do so with the intention of joining their loved ones in the UK on a permanent basis. They are given full access to the labour market on arrival and are able to apply for full settlement after 2 years providing they meet the criteria in the immigration rules. It is right therefore that we should consider ways to assist a spouse integrate into life here, which includes promoting the development of English language skills at an early stage.

We are seeking views on the proficiency level at which the requirement would be set, on how we would make language learning accessible universally and on how the spouse might demonstrate that a language requirement had been met.

The consultation periods will run for 12 weeks and the final date for responses is 27 February 2008. Once the process has concluded, and views considered, we will report on the results of both consultations and any proposed changes to the immigration rules relating to marriage.

*Simplification*

In June 2007 my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration published an initial consultation paper on simplifying immigration law. Simplification of the legal framework will support the wider development and transformation of the Border and Immigration Agency, and assist in the achievement of its strategic objectives.

Detailed analytical work is now underway to examine the existing law and the options for change. Next year we will consult on more specific issues and publish proposals for pre-legislative scrutiny.

Copies of the statement of intent, the consultations on tackling forced marriage and introducing a pre-entry English language requirement for spouses and responses to the simplification consultation have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The documents are also available on the Border and Immigration Agency's website at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/ (Statement of intent)

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/consultationdocuments/ (Marriage consultation documents)

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/consultationdocuments/closedconsultations (Simplification responses)

## Justice and Home Affairs Council (6 - 7 December)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier):** The final Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council under the Portuguese presidency will be held in Brussels on 6-7 December 2007. My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Jack Straw), my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith), my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice), the Solicitor-General for Scotland (Frank Mulholland), and I will represent the United Kingdom. The following issues will be discussed at the Council.

The Council will begin with a joint meeting of the JHA and Employment Councils looking at migration, employment and the Lisbon strategy. The Lisbon strategy aims at making the EU the most competitive economy in the world and achieving full employment by 2010. The strategy is based on three pillars: economic, social and environmental. The focus of the Lisbon strategy is therefore growth and jobs. The Government support this approach but want to emphasise that a balance needs to be struck between stimulating labour migration and the management of *integration and cohesion, enforcement* of the rules and combating illegal migration.

It will then move into Mixed Committee with Iceland, Switzerland and Norway. That session will begin with a discussion on the full application of the provisions of the Schengen acquis to the member states who joined the European Union in 2004. A formal decision will be made on lifting the internal borders of nine of the 10 countries involved. There will also be updates on the Schengen information system (SIS) communication network and the SIS II programme.

There will also be a state of play report on the directive on common standards and procedures in member states for illegally staying third-country nationals. The directive is based on the premise that an effective returns policy is a crucial part in the fight against illegal immigration. The UK has not opted into this as we are not yet convinced of the need for common standards in this area.

There will be a discussion on the weapons directive in both the Mixed Committee and subsequently under the main agenda. The presidency will be seeking a political agreement on a First Reading deal with the European Parliament. The Government are happy with the text as it stands having secured some important amendments, particularly in relation to the application of criminal sanctions and the arrangements for allowing young persons under 18 to continue to shoot with parental permission or at approved centres. We are aware that the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union have yet to clear this from scrutiny but hope they will be able to do so on the basis of the further information we have recently provided.

Under the main Council agenda, the presidency is hoping to adopt Council Conclusions on mobility partnerships and circular migration in the context of the Global Approach to Migration. The Government support the Council Conclusions and are keen for progress to be made under the EU's Global Approach to Migration. We believe it is important to build effective partnerships with third countries to help manage migration issues more effectively. These partnerships should cover all aspects of migration: legal, illegal, and migration and development. Mobility partnerships and circular migration are only two aspects of the Global Approach to Migration.

There will be a package of counter-terrorism items discussed in the main agenda at the Council. In particular, there will be an opportunity for Ministers to consider the EU Counter-terrorism Co-ordinator's discussion paper on implementation of the EU Counter-terrorism strategy. The Government have welcomed his proposals in particular for a common EU policy on data sharing, but will wish to explore in more detail some of the ideas raised for example about future work on the use of special investigative techniques. Draft Council Conclusions will also be agreed on enhancing the security of explosives.

The UK welcomes the Portuguese presidency's continued drive to finalise these wide-ranging and complex pieces of work on explosives. There will also be a presentation and first exchange of views on the amending framework decision on combating terrorism. The Government support the Commission's proposals and look forward to working with the Commission to develop complimentary measures against terrorist use of the internet.

The presidency will seek to draw a line under the initial discussions on chapters 6, 7 and 9 of the draft Europol Council Decision, which deal with organisational issues, confidentiality rules and miscellaneous provisions respectively. The Europol working group will now focus its attention on the remaining chapters of the draft Council Decision. The Government support the proposed drafts which include helpful revisions that strengthen the Europol management board and provide more oversight. However these chapters will need to be revisited and revised again at working group level early next year once the work of three expert groups dealing with staffing and budgetary issues has been completed. This will provide the opportunity for further discussion before the entire Council Decision is taken to the Council for agreement.

There will be a state of play report on e-justice and an exchange of views on work planned for the first half of 2008. The UK supports the overall initiative and the priorities which have been identified for next year.

Rome 1 (applicable law in contractual obligations) is on the agenda for a presidency report on the First Reading Agreement with the European Parliament. The UK did not opt into this dossier at the start of the negotiations. We therefore have no vote in Council. We have, however, negotiated significant improvements to the text which deal satisfactorily with the points which gave rise to our decision not to opt in, and acknowledge the good co-operation with our European partners that has made this possible. The Government will shortly embark on a process of consultation before deciding whether the UK should now signify its wish to accept the measure, under the terms of our Protocol to Title IV of the Treaty.

The proposed Directive on protection of the environment through criminal law is on the agenda for a possible general approach, although this is considered premature by some member states. The UK supports the presidency's desire to progress this dossier, but considers that further detailed work is required.

The presidency is hoping to agree Council Conclusions with a view to work next year on the development of Eurojust. The Government support the conclusions in recognising the value of Eurojust's work but have made clear that any future proposals should focus on ensuring that Eurojust fulfils its potential within its current powers. The Government have made clear that they would not therefore support some of the more far-reaching proposals in the recent Commission Communication on the future of Eurojust and the European judicial network.

The presidency proposes to seek a general approach on the draft Framework Decision on the recognition and supervision of suspended sentences, alternative sanctions and conditional sentences. The Government welcome the work done on this instrument though some fundamental issues remain outstanding and agreement will be conditional on finding a satisfactory outcome on the entire instrument.

The presidency will give an update about the state of play of the European Supervision Order proposal and is likely to present the revised draft text. No substantive discussion is expected at the meeting. The first working group to consider this revised version is to take place on 11 December.

There will be a report on the outcome of the EU-Russia JHA Ministerial held in Brussels on 22-23 November.

There will, also, be a report on the outcome of the Hague diplomatic conference which concluded work on a draft Convention on the international recovery of child support and other forms of family maintenance. The Government welcome the outcome of that conference.

A lunch for interior ministers will also be held on 6 December with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. A possible topic for discussion will be the new Green Paper on the second phase of the Common European Asylum System and the next steps but it may also focus on ongoing or protracted refugee situations.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### ICL Plastics Ltd/ICL Tech Ltd Plastics

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain):** The Lord Advocate, Elish Angiolini QC and I announced on 1 October 2007 a joint public inquiry under the Inquires Act 2005 into the explosion on 11 May 2004 at a plastics factory operated by ICL Plastics Ltd and ICL Tech Ltd in Maryhill Glasgow which killed nine people and injured 33 others.

I am today announcing that Lord Gill, the Lord Justice Clerk has been appointed as chairman of the inquiry and Roy Martin QC as leading counsel. I can confirm that the chairman has been consulted on the terms of reference for the inquiry and we have agreed that these are:

To inquire into the circumstances leading up to the incident on 11 May 2004 at the premises occupied by the ICL group of companies, Grovepark Mills, Maryhill, Glasgow.

To consider the safety and related issues arising from such an inquiry, including the regulation of the activities at Grovepark Mills.

To make recommendations in the light of the lessons identified from the causation and circumstances leading up to the incident.

To report as soon as practicable.

The Lord Advocate and I have agreed that there will be no other appointments to the inquiry panel.

# Written Ministerial Statements

*Thursday 6 December 2007*

## TREASURY

### Financial Inclusion

**The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher):** The Government are today publishing "*Financial Inclusion: an Action Plan for 2008-11*", setting out commitments by the Government and key partners to achieve further progress in promoting financial inclusion. This document has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and is available on the Treasury's website (www.hm-treasury.gov.uk)

The Government has three goals for financial inclusion:

that everyone should be able to manage their money effectively and securely, through having access to a bank account, and the confidence and capability to get the most from it;

that everyone should be able to plan for the future with a reasonable degree of security. Therefore, affordable credit, saving accounts and simple insurance products should be available to all who need them; and

that everyone should have the information, support and confidence they need to prevent avoidable financial difficulty, and to know where to turn if they do find themselves in financial distress.

"*Financial inclusion: an action plan for 2008-11*" affirms the Government's commitment to promoting financial inclusion in the next spending period. As announced in the comprehensive spending review, from 2008-11, financial inclusion policy will be supported through a new £130 million financial inclusion fund. The fund will be augmented with significant contributions from other Government Departments.

Initiatives that will be supported in the next spending period include:

£76 million (including £2 million from BERR) to fund free face-to-face money advice to financially excluded people;

£38 million to increase consumer access to affordable credit through credit unions and other third sector lenders;

£12 million to fund dedicated staff to work to promote financial inclusion locally, with a focus on increasing the availability and awareness of home contents insurance for low-income people, in particular in areas affected by the recent flood events;

£2 million funding to the OFT to continue its "Save Xmas" campaign, promoting access to saving opportunities, particularly in credit unions;

£5 million (including £3 million from MoJ) to operate prison-focused outreach in every region of England and Wales; and

a continuation of projects to tackle illegal lending in every region of Great Britain, which will be funded by BERR.

Building on their successful work in partnership with Government to increase take-up of basic bank accounts, and their support for other financial inclusion initiatives including easier access to free ATMs in low-income areas, the banks have also committed to support third sector affordable credit, including actions to develop new provision in 25 high priority areas identified by the financial inclusion taskforce.

The taskforce, which has been extended until 2011, will continue to monitor these initiatives and advise the Government on financial inclusion developments.

The Treasury Committee conducted an inquiry into financial inclusion and savings in the spring of 2007, and published a report detailing its findings in October 2007. The Government have sent their response to the inquiry to the Treasury Committee today.

### Pre-Budget Report (Consultation)

**The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Jane Kennedy):** Following the Pre-Budget Report on 9 October, the Treasury has today published the following consultation documents:

Income shifting: a consultation on draft legislation

Securing a sustainable future: a consultation on the North Sea Fiscal Regime

Paying a Fairer Share: a consultation on residence and domicile

Principles-based approach to financial products avoidance: a consultation document

Copies of these documents have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the Treasury website.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill

**The Minister for Competitiveness (Mr. Stephen Timms):** My noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Lord Jones of Birmingham, has made the following statement:

Following my closing speech at Second Reading on the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill on 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1280, I would like to clarify to the House the Government's understanding of the British Retail Consortium's views on the inclusion of a cost recovery provision relating to the operation of the Primary Authority arrangements under part 2 of the Bill.

I understand that the position of the British Retail Consortium is that there should be no such charges on businesses in a Primary Authority partnership. In informal discussion during the consultation on the draft Bill with a number of businesses, however, it was put to us that the inclusion of a power for local authorities to recover the costs of the service provided from the business would not be unwelcome, provided that the service provided ensured a reliable level of consistency in the regulatory approach taken to the business across the country.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Guatemala (Adoptions)

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan):** I am today announcing a suspension of adoptions of Guatemalan children by UK residents in response to concerns about adoption practice in Guatemala. The suspension takes effect immediately.

We have had long-standing concerns about the adoption process in Guatemala, as evidenced by the imposition of additional procedural checks administered by the British embassy in Guatemala and the UK's objection to Guatemala's accession to the Hague convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption in 2003.

I am now introducing a suspension of adoptions in response to new evidence which demonstrates that: there are insufficient safeguards in the Guatemalan adoption system to prevent children being adopted without proper consents being given and improper financial gain being made by individuals in the adoption process. In particular it demonstrates that: there is a trade in babies being sold for overseas adoption; and mothers are being paid, or otherwise encouraged, to give up children for adoption. Such practices are, of course, contrary to the principles of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I have given careful consideration to the position of UK prospective adopters currently in the process of adopting from Guatemala. I have decided that the suspension will take effect at the point when a Certificate of Eligibility is sent to Guatemala by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (or in a Northern Ireland case by the Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety for Northern Ireland). This is the last point in the application process administered by the DCSF (or the DHSSPS).

Applications already sent to Guatemala will be not be prevented from proceeding in the usual way (subject, of course, to the usual checks), but only in exceptional circumstances will I consider that any other application may proceed. A decision about any application for an exception to the suspension will take account of the best interests of the child and all the facts of the particular case.

I understand that the Guatemala authorities intend to legislate so as to implement the Hague Convention in the coming months, but I consider that the nature of the information currently held means we must act now. I will, of course, consider the effect on the ground of any changes to adoption legislation and practice in Guatemala, in keeping the suspension under review.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Supporting People

**The Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper):** The Government are today publishing provisional individual grant allocations to administering authorities for the Supporting People programme in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. The grant will fund housing-related support services for over 1 million vulnerable people—including victims of domestic violence, teenage parents, older people and those with mental health problems—enabling them to live independently in their accommodation.

Final allocations for 2008-09 will be confirmed by a further statement to this House in February 2008 and then for each subsequent year at the same time in that year.

The consultation on the Supporting People distribution formula completed in February 2006 and responses to this exercise have been assessed. Following consideration of the available options, a decision has been taken to use the updated formula to target the funding in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2010-11 to help address some of the inherited uneven distribution of grant between authorities.

We are today publishing our response to that consultation on the Department's website and invite respondents to refresh their comments if appropriate before we confirm final allocations in the new year.

This three-year settlement, alongside a radically slimmed-down performance framework will provide authorities with stability for the future and greater flexibility to budget and plan realistic delivery of housing support services.

A table of indicative Supporting People programme grant allocations and a copy of the consultation response have today been placed in the Library of the House.

### Greater London Authority

**The Minister for Local Government (John Healey):** I have today announced the following three-year settlement for the general GLA grant, which is provided by the Government to support the core activities of the Mayor of London and Greater London Authority.

| Year | 2008-9 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|---|---|---|
| £ million | 48.006 | 48.068 | 48.136 |

This settlement includes DCMS' funding allocation over £9 million per annum for the Museum of London in anticipation of the transfer of its co-sponsorship of the museum to the GLA from April 2008, as well as an additional £0.5 million per annum for the GLA's other new powers and responsibilities following the GLA Act 2007 and election costs. The settlement also reflects the general requirement on local government for at least a 3 per cent. per annum value for money saving over the Comprehensive Spending Review period.

The general GLA grant will continue to be determined by the Secretary of State annually, in accordance with section 100 of the GLA Act 1999.

## DEFENCE

### UK Hydrographic Office

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg):** Earlier this year I commissioned a status review of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office in Taunton to establish the optimum future structural and ownership arrangements for the UKHO.

This review has now been completed. I can announce I have accepted the principal review recommendation that, given the current regulatory and market conditions, the UKHO should retain its current trading fund status, and ensure the potential benefits of this status are maximised as far as possible. The review considered carefully options to transfer some or all of UKHO

functions to a Government-owned company and a range of structural and ownership arrangements which might assist UKHO to succeed in the challenges it faces. As the report contains commercially sensitive information, a copy of the executive summary only has been placed in the Library of the House.

As part of normal MOD business, this decision will be subject to regular review in the light of business needs, or as a result of any significant change in the regulatory or market environment.

We previously announced that UKHO will remain based in Taunton. As part of our commitment to UKHO's future we will be investing in a new building and substantially improved working conditions for UKHO's staff. We are currently looking at detailed options and expect to make a final decision early in the new year.

The status review and further studies have been carried out to ensure the UKHO has a sustainable future, focused on its core business and capabilities, providing best value for money for the taxpayer. In addition to meeting the core defence hydrographic needs of the Royal Navy and support digital navigation, the UKHO continues to operate in a competitive international commercial environment. Continuous efficiency gains and effective cost control are vital to remain competitive. In particular, UKHO management has identified those skills and capabilities they believe will be required to succeed in the developing and challenging market for digital navigation products.

As a result of this work, and subject to further detailed planning, I have approved the start of full consultation with the UKHO trade unions on the optimum future size and shape of the organisation. Study analysis indicates a total net headcount reduction in the UKHO of between 250 and 300 permanent posts over the next five years may be required in order to focus resources on the core business. It is hoped that this net reduction can be achieved through natural wastage and the full use of wider MOD restructuring arrangements. As far as possible we will avoid compulsory redundancies.

UKHO senior management are committed to taking forward the consultation process quickly in order to provide all staff with clarity regarding their futures. Wherever possible the new posts required to support future business needs will be filled by reskilling and retraining of existing staff.

With these proposed changes, I believe the UKHO's future will be secure, and it will remain a significant employer in the South West, with over 800 staff. I am clear that, these are the right decisions we need to take now if we are to deliver a viable and sustainable future for the UKHO and its staff, and value for money for the UK taxpayer.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Women's Land Army/Women's Timber Corps

**The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn):** I am delighted to announce that the Government has decided to acknowledge the contribution made by the Women's Land Army and the Women's Timber Corps by means of a badge which will be presented to veterans next year. This is in recognition of the important role these women played, not only in feeding the nation, but also in providing timber for vital industries, such as mining and aircraft manufacture. It is important that we never forget the sacrifices that were made both at home and abroad during the war. The badge will be a fitting commemoration of the work of the WLA in supporting the war effort.

Originally formed during World War I, the Women's Land Army was re-formed shortly after the outbreak of World War II to work on the land, so releasing male workers to go to war. By 1943 there were 80,000 women working in every aspect of agriculture, and also in the timber industry. The work was often physically demanding and for long hours. The WLA remained in existence until 1950, when it was disbanded. Members were granted a certificate signed by HM Queen Elizabeth in recognition of their service. Over the last 60 years, the women have campaigned strenuously for more formal recognition of their efforts.

Details of how to apply for a badge will be announced early in the new year.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### General Affairs and External Relations Council

**The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy):** The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 10 December in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

*Preparation of the European Council on 14 December*

The Council will discuss preparation of the European Council on 14 December in Brussels. The Government expect the European Council to focus on discussions of the mandate for a "Reflection Group" ("Group of the Wise"), and the adoption by the Council of a Declaration on Globalisation. The presidency will seek, with the Government's strong support, a signal from the European Council that, with the signing of the Lisbon treaty on 13 December, the EU now has a stable institutional framework for the foreseeable future and should focus on delivering concrete results for its citizens.

Discussion at the European Council is also expected to cover Justice and Home Affairs; a renewed commitment to the Lisbon Strategy for Jobs and Growth; energy and climate: change; and external relations where the Government's priorities will be Kosovo and Iran.

*2007 Enlargement Package*

The Council is expected to take stock of progress on EU enlargement following the publication of the Commission's enlargement strategy and progress reports on 6 November. The Government hope the Council will adopt conclusions reaffirming its commitment to enlargement on the basis of the conclusions of the European Council in December 2006, while welcoming the Commission's reports and recommendations for further progress. This will encourage continuation of reform efforts by all the candidates and potential candidates.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

*European Neighbourhood Policy*

The Commission is expected to brief the Council on its latest communication on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) which is likely to take stock of the progress made on ENP since last year's communication, and to make proposals for how to take the policy forward. The Government endorses ENP as a vital framework for supporting our EU neighbours in implementing their political and economic reforms, and as a means of tackling common challenges such as economic integration, energy and climate change, terrorism and extremism, migration, and good governance, to the benefit of all member states.

*Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)*

The Council will discuss the regulation implementing Economic Partnership Agreements in signatory African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACPs) from 1 January 2008. The Commission will also present a paper recommending options compatible with the World Trade Organisation for those non-least developed countries who are unable to conclude negotiations by the end of the year. The Government wants duty-free quota-free access for all ACP exports to the EU market and will work to ensure that countries who have showed willingness to engage in the negotiations are not worse off in January 2008.

*Western Balkans*

Discussion of the Western Balkans is expected to focus on Kosovo and will coincide with the end of the period of talks facilitated by the EU-US-Russia Troika. All indications are that Belgrade and Pristina will not have reached agreement on Kosovo's status. The Government will be pushing for the EU to take a leading role in charting the way ahead after the talks, acting decisively to ensure that Kosovo's status is rapidly resolved so that the whole region can move forward.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on enlargement and the Western Balkans. The Government support the EU perspective for the Western Balkans—it has driven key reforms and helped the region move forward from the conflicts of the 1990s.

*Iran*

The Council is expected to discuss steps the EU can take to support the agreed twin-track international approach to the Iranian nuclear issue. The High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, is expected to brief the Council on his recent meeting with Saeed Jalili, Secretary of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council, on 30 November.

*Middle East*

The Council is expected to welcome the progress made at the Annapolis Conference and to discuss the forthcoming Paris donors' conference. The Council is also expected to adopt conclusions focusing on the Annapolis Conference and EU action in support, including work to strengthen Palestinian security capacity through expansion of the EU mission to support the Palestinian civilian police, and the Paris donors' conference in December. The Government are committed to supporting the shared goal at Annapolis,

"to immediately launch good faith bilateral negotiations in order to conclude a peace treaty resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues without exception, as specified in previous agreements."

The Council is also expected to discuss Lebanon, following the departure of President Lahoud on 23 November. The Government remain concerned about the divisions between the Lebanese Government and the opposition over the election of a successor, which has been a major cause of tension in Lebanon. There now appear to be encouraging signs of progress.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions urging a swift, peaceful and democratic outcome to the process. The Government welcome the EU's sustained engagement on Lebanon and continues to support French efforts to facilitate a compromise between the Lebanese political parties.

*Burma*

Burma has been added to the agenda at the Government's request in order to maintain EU focus on Burma and to support the work of the UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Sergio Pinheiro. The Government also want the Council to take stock of the continuing detailed, follow-on work on EU sanctions being undertaken following decisions at the October and November Councils.

*Sudan*

The Government want the Council to send a strong statement on Sudan-Darfur and Chad through conclusions reiterating the EU's support for the ongoing UN-African Union (AU) led efforts to achieve a sustainable peace settlement in Darfur. The Government also expect the Council to call on all parties to do all they can to ensure prompt deployment of an effective AU-UN peacekeeping force, UNAMID, which will assume authority from the current AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) by 31 December 2007, and to call for the early deployment of the planned EU mission to Chad and the Central African Republic.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Police Funding (2008-09 to 2010-11)

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** I have today placed in the Library my proposals for allocation of police grant for England and Wales from 2008-09 to 2010-11. I intend to implement the proposals on police grant subject to consideration of any representations and to the approval of the House.

Policing and reducing crime remain top priorities for this Government. The 2006-07 British Crime Survey shows that since peaking in 1995, crime has fallen by 42 per cent. representing over 8 million fewer crimes. The Government have worked very hard to maintain the police grant at a good level for the next three years as well as to provide secure and stable funding across policing, crime and drugs. Police authorities will receive a realistic and affordable increase in grant, backed up by a programme of reform and modernisation and a continuing drive to increase efficiency and productivity and cut bureaucracy. chief constables and police authorities will have maximum flexibility to make the best possible use of resources to maintain the historically high number of police officers and have the right workforce balance they need to deliver local priorities.

I have placed in the Library of the House today copies of the "National Community Safety Plan for England 2008-11". The plan supports greater partnership working on community safety at national, regional and local level, and is intended to support practitioners in planning and delivering community safety objectives. The plan also includes our strategic policing priorities and key actions for the police service for 2008-09. The "National Community Safety Plan" follows on from, and supports, the objectives in the Government's crime strategy, published in July this year "Cutting Crime: A New Partnership 2008-11". The crime strategy sets out how we will continue to build on the achievements of the past ten years, refreshing our approach to meet new challenges. The new "Make Communities Safer" PSA supports the crime strategy and helps to establish a more mature relationship between central Government and local delivery partners for driving improvement priorities.

The settlement builds on considerable investment in the police service over the past decade. On a like for like basis Government grant for the police will have increased by over 60 per cent. or over £3.7 billion between 1997-98 and 2010-11. Our investment in policing, as well as significant extra investment from local taxpayers and the delivery by police forces and authorities of substantial increases in efficiency, has helped to expand local policing successfully, reduce crime and make our communities safer

The police service has responded well to the demands placed on it but we must make sure the service is in the best possible shape to meet them. We are committed to consolidating and building on the significant reforms and achievements to date, to support the police service in meeting these new challenges. In support of these aims, Sir Ronnie Flanagan is currently undertaking an independent review of policing. We also intend to publish a Green Paper in spring 2008 to consult on wider proposals for change.

Excellent progress is being made in the delivery of neighbourhood policing. By April 2008 there will be a neighbourhood policing team in every area and we are ahead of schedule with more than 75 per cent. of England and Wales already covered by neighbourhood policing teams. Some 16,000 police community support officers are now supporting police officers in delivering real changes on the ground, fighting crime and making communities feel safer. Together with CLG, community safety partners and other agencies, the Home Office is working to integrate neighbourhood policing with local neighbourhood management to ensure that we have the greatest number of services working together to tackle the issues identified by our communities.

The Government remain committed to building on the significant progress that have been made to date in increasing efficiency and productivity and reducing unnecessary bureaucracy, to ensure that officers are most effectively focused on their front line duties. We want to empower and equip officers so they can provide the most visible and accessible police presence in the community possible. We intend to support this through a new efficiency and productivity strategy on which we are working with the service. In addition, this will be supported by further improvements to working practices and processes, greater flexibility and streamlining of local performance management requirements and wider access to innovative crime fighting technology that will be supported by a new £50 million capital fund.

*The Police Grant Settlement 2008-09 – 2010-11*

Total provision for policing revenue grants in 2008-09 will be £9,227 million, an overall increase of 2.9 per cent. Provision is also made for 2.9 per cent. in 2009-10 and 2.7 per cent. in 2010-11. I propose to distribute the settlement as set out below.

*Table 1: Police revenue funding settlement 2008-09 to 2010-11 compared with 2007-08*

| | *2007/08 £m* | *2008/09 £m* | *2009/10 £m* | *2010/11 £m* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Home Office general grant | 4,428 | 4,543 | 4,666 | 4,792 |
| DCLG/WAG general grant | 3,397 | 3,488 | 3,583 | 3,680 |
| Welsh Top-Up | 13 | 15 | 16 | 16 |
| *Total general Formula Grant* | *7,838* | *8,046* | *8,265* | *8,488* |
| % increase in general grant | | *2.7%* | *2.7%* | *2.7%* |
| *Total Specific Grants* | *1,130* | *1,181* | *1,227** | *1,263** |
| *Total Government funding for police authorities* | *8,968* | *9,227* | *9,492** | *9,751** |
| *% increase in total Government revenue funding* | | *2.9%* | *2.9%** | *2.7%** |

*Consultation will take place on how best to use BCU funds to support local delivery of PSA targets and crime strategy.

Police funding proposals within the local government finance system are being announced by my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) today. On 5 November, the Welsh Assembly Government announced its proposals for Revenue Support Grant.

Provisional general policing grants (that is, Home Office Police Grant, Revenue Support Grant and National Non Domestic Rates) for English and Welsh police authorities in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are set out at tables 2 to 4.

*General grant*

Within the general grant provision of 2.7 per cent. I have set a funding floor at 2.5 per cent. in each of the CSR years. This means that each police authority in England and Wales is guaranteed an increase of at least this level in each year. This provides for stability while enabling us to move towards fuller implementation of the needs-based funding formula.

The employer pension contribution rate payable by police authorities for police officers will be reduced from 24.6 per cent. of pensionable pay to 24.2 per cent. with effect for three years starting from April 2008. This revaluation does not affect employee contribution rates. We expect that the reduced employer contribution rate will result in a saving to police authorities of approximately £15 million per year.

The settlement recognises the importance of efficiency and productivity increases for police authorities. Compared to 2007-08, police authorities will be expected to deliver 9.3 per cent. cashable increases in efficiency and productivity by the end of 2010-11.

Keeping council tax under control remains a priority for the Government. And my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer made clear in his statement on the comprehensive spending review that the Government expects the average council tax increase in England in 2008-09 to be substantially below 5 per cent. No decisions have been taken on capping principles in 2008-09 but we have made clear that we will not hesitate to use our capping powers as necessary to protect council tax payers from excessive increases.

*Formula Grant Distribution*

During the summer we consulted on whether to update the resource base of the formula and whether "rule 2 grants" (former specific grants now allocated with general grant) and the crime fighting fund (CFF) should continue as separate entities or be incorporated into general grant. I have carefully considered all the representations received in response to the consultation.

I have decided to update the resource base of the formula to reflect better the pressures facing the police. I have also decided, in the interest of stability, not to incorporate "rule 2 grants" into general grant. Likewise, the CFF will remain in its present, unhypothecated, form to give maximum flexibility to police authorities and chief constables.

I have decided to move funding for the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP) from ring fenced status to a "rule 2 grant". It will no longer be ring-fenced and will be distributed on the basis of each force's allocations in the last two years.

*Welsh Police Authorities*

In line with previous years I have ensured that Welsh police authorities are treated in line with English police authorities. I have provided additional support of £15.4 million in 2008-09, £15.5 million in 2009-10 and £15.7 million in 2010-11 to ensure that Dyfed-Powys, Gwent and North Wales police authorities receive at least a minimum grant increase of 2.5 per cent. This additional support is also partly funded by reducing police grant to South Wales police authority, so that it too will receive the level of grant it would if it were in England.

*Metropolitan Police funding*

The settlement provides for the Metropolitan police authority to receive £197 million in 2008-09 (+£5 million over 2007-08) in formula provision to reflect their unique national and international role as well as the functions that fall to them by virtue of London being a capital city. This has been uprated in line with inflation for each year.

*Specific Grants for Police Authorities*

Police authorities will continue to receive extra funding through a number of specific grants for particular schemes. Details are set out in table 5.

*Crime Fighting Fund*: £277 million will again be made available to forces in 2008-09.

*Neighbourhood Policing*: To ensure that neighbourhood policing is fully embedded across England and Wales, I have accepted the recommendation made by Sir Ronnie Flanagan to maintain the ring-fence on this funding in 2008-09. A total of £324 million will be made available in 2008-09. Funding will increase by an average of 2.7 per cent. in each of the CSR years.

*Basic Command Units*: The basic command unit fund was introduced in 2003-04 for a two-year period, subsequently extended. I will be continuing this funding at the level of £40 million in 2008-09. I will be providing £50 million a year in 2009-10 and 2010-11. During 2008, we will be consulting with the police and other key delivery partners on how this £50 million fund for years after 2008-09 can best be used, and by which partners, to support successful delivery of the new PSA targets and crime strategy.

*Counter-Terrorism*

Funding for police counter terrorism will be increased from £472 million in 2007-08 to £524 million in 2008-09, £552 million in 2009-10 and £579 million in 2010-11.

*Capital*

In 2007-08 we were able to make two in-year capital payments of £25 million each to police authorities. That additional funding has been continued for the CSR years and £220 million in capital and supported capital expenditure will be allocated to police authorities in each of the next three years, with each authority receiving the same allocation as in 2007-08.

*Other issues*

I will shortly be making further announcements about funding for the Olympics and Protective Services.

Table 2: Police Grant Allocations by English and Welsh Police Authority 2007-08 to 2008-09

| *Police Authority* | *Adjusted 2007-08* | *2008-09* | *Change on 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Formula Allocation*[1] | *Allocation*[1] | *Formula Allocation* |
| | £m | £m | % |
| *English Shire Forces* | | | |
| Avon & Somerset | 167.8 | 173.7 | 3.5% |
| Bedfordshire | 66.3 | 68.5 | 3.3% |
| Cambridgeshire | 76.4 | 78.7 | 3.0% |
| Cheshire | 114.7 | 117.6 | 2.5% |
| Cleveland | 93.0 | 95.3 | 2.5% |
| Cumbria | 64.0 | 65.6 | 2.5% |
| Derbyshire | 105.8 | 109.2 | 3.2% |
| Devon & Cornwall | 177.4 | 181.9 | 2.5% |
| Dorset | 62.2 | 63.7 | 2.5% |
| Durham | 87.0 | 89.2 | 2.5% |
| Essex | 168.4 | 173.0 | 2.8% |
| Gloucestershire | 56.4 | 57.8 | 2.5% |
| Hampshire | 197.2 | 202.2 | 2.6% |
| Hertfordshire | 114.4 | 117.7 | 2.9% |
| Humberside | 122.0 | 125.1 | 2.6% |
| Kent | 182.5 | 187.2 | 2.6% |
| Lancashire | 193.6 | 198.8 | 2.7% |
| Leicestershire | 111.4 | 114.7 | 2.9% |
| Lincolnshire | 60.4 | 62.3 | 3.1% |
| Norfolk | 83.4 | 85.4 | 2.5% |
| North Yorkshire | 73.0 | 74.8 | 2.5% |
| Northamptonshire | 71.7 | 73.5 | 2.6% |
| Nottinghamshire | 132.4 | 136.9 | 3.4% |
| Staffordshire | 114.2 | 117.4 | 2.8% |

Table 2: Police Grant Allocations by English and Welsh Police Authority 2007-08 to 2008-09

| *Police Authority* | *Adjusted 2007-08 Formula Allocation*[1] | *2008-09 Allocation*[1] | *Change on 2007-08 Formula Allocation* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Suffolk | 67.5 | 69.2 | 2.5% |
| Surrey | 96.9 | 99.3 | 2.5% |
| Sussex | 161.6 | 165.7 | 2.5% |
| Thames Valley | 225.8 | 231.9 | 2.7% |
| Warwickshire | 51.5 | 52.8 | 2.6% |
| West Mercia | 116.0 | 118.9 | 2.5% |
| Wiltshire | 62.0 | 63.6 | 2.5% |
| *Shires Total* | 3476.7 | 3571.3 | 2.7% |
| *English Metropolitan Forces* | | | |
| Greater Manchester | 432.5 | 445.6 | 3.0% |
| Merseyside | 253.7 | 260.6 | 2.7% |
| Northumbria | 237.9 | 243.8 | 2.5% |
| South Yorkshire | 194.2 | 199.1 | 2.6% |
| West Midlands | 450.0 | 468.0 | 4.0% |
| West Yorkshire | 317.4 | 328.2 | 3.4% |
| *Mets Total* | 1885.6 | 1945.4 | 3.2% |
| *London Forces* | | | |
| GLA-Police | 1883.0 | 1930.0 | 2.5% |
| City of London [2] | 22.8 | 20.2 | N/A |
| *English Total* | 7268.0 | 7466.9 | 2.7% |
| *Welsh forces* | | | |
| Dyfed-Powys [3] | 51.8 | 53.1 | 2.5% |
| Gwent [3] | 78.6 | 80.6 | 2.5% |
| North Wales [3] | 76.3 | 78.2 | 2.5% |
| South Wales [3] | 172.1 | 176.7 | 2.7% |
| *Welsh total* | 378.8 | 388.6 | 2.6% |
| *TOTAL* | 7646.8 | 7855.5 | 2.7% |

*Table 3: Police Grant Allocations by English and Welsh Police Authority 2008-09*

| *Police Authority* | *2008-09 Formula Allocation*[1] *£m* | *2009-10 Allocation*[1] *£m* | *Change on 2008-09 Formula Allocation %* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *English Shire forces* | | | |
| Avon & Somerset | 173.7 | 179.7 | 3.5% |
| Bedfordshire | 68.5 | 70.8 | 3.3% |
| Cambridgeshire | 78.7 | 81.0 | 3.0% |
| Cheshire | 117.6 | 120.5 | 2.5% |
| Cleveland | 95.3 | 97.7 | 2.5% |
| Cumbria | 65.6 | 67.2 | 2.5% |
| Derbyshire | 109.2 | 112.6 | 3.2% |
| Devon & Cornwall | 181.9 | 186.4 | 2.5% |
| Dorset | 63.7 | 65.3 | 2.5% |
| Durham | 89.2 | 91.4 | 2.5% |
| Essex | 173.0 | 177.9 | 2.8% |
| Gloucestershire | 57.8 | 59.3 | 2.5% |
| Hampshire | 202.2 | 207.5 | 2.6% |
| Hertfordshire | 117.7 | 121.2 | 2.9% |
| Humberside | 125.1 | 128.4 | 2.6% |
| Kent | 187.2 | 192.1 | 2.7% |
| Lancashire | 198.8 | 204.1 | 2.7% |
| Leicestershire | 114.7 | 118.0 | 2.9% |
| Lincolnshire | 62.3 | 64.3 | 3.1% |
| Norfolk | 85.4 | 87.6 | 2.5% |
| North Yorkshire | 74.8 | 76.7 | 2.5% |
| Northamptonshire | 73.5 | 75.5 | 2.6% |
| Nottinghamshire | 136.9 | 141.4 | 3.3% |
| Staffordshire | 117.4 | 120.6 | 2.7% |
| Suffolk | 69.2 | 71.0 | 2.5% |
| Surrey | 99.3 | 101.8 | 2.5% |
| Sussex | 165.7 | 169.8 | 2.5% |
| Thames Valley | 231.9 | 238.2 | 2.7% |
| Warwickshire | 52.8 | 54.1 | 2.6% |
| West Mercia | 118.9 | 121.8 | 2.5% |
| Wiltshire | 63.6 | 65.2 | 2.5% |
| *Shires Total* | 3571.3 | 3669.0 | 2.7% |
| *English Metropolitan forces* | | | |
| Greater Manchester | 445.6 | 458.9 | 3.0% |
| Merseyside | 260.6 | 267.4 | 2.6% |
| Northumbria | 243.8 | 249.9 | 2.5% |
| South Yorkshire | 199.1 | 204.1 | 2.5% |
| West Midlands | 468.0 | 486.1 | 3.9% |
| West Yorkshire | 328.2 | 339.2 | 3.3% |
| *Mets Total* | 1945.4 | 2005.7 | 3.1% |
| *London Forces* | | | |
| GLA - Police | 1930.0 | 1978.3 | 2.5% |
| City of London [2] | 20.2 | 21.0 | N/A |
| *English Total* | 7466.9 | 7674.0 | 2.8% |
| *Welsh forces* | | | |
| Dyfed-Powys [3] | 53.1 | 54.4 | 2.5% |
| Gwent [3] | 80.6 | 82.6 | 2.5% |
| North Wales [3] | 78.2 | 80.1 | 2.5% |
| South Wales [3] | 176.7 | 181.5 | 2.7% |
| *Welsh total* | 388.6 | 398.6 | 2.6% |
| *TOTAL* | 7855.5 | 8072.6 | 2.8% |

*Table 4: Police Grant Allocations by English and Welsh Police Authority 2009-10*

| Police Authority | 2009/10 Formula Allocation[1] £m | 2010/11 Allocation[1] £m | Change on 2009-10 Formula Allocation % |
|---|---|---|---|
| *English Shire forces* | | | |
| Avon & Somerset | 179.7 | 186.1 | 3.5% |
| Bedfordshire | 70.8 | 73.1 | 3.3% |
| Cambridgeshire | 81.0 | 83.5 | 3.0% |
| Cheshire | 120.5 | 123.5 | 2.5% |
| Cleveland | 97.7 | 100.1 | 2.5% |
| Cumbria | 67.2 | 68.9 | 2.5% |
| Derbyshire | 112.6 | 116.2 | 3.1% |
| Devon & Cornwall | 186.4 | 191.1 | 2.5% |
| Dorset | 65.3 | 66.9 | 2.5% |
| Durham | 91.4 | 93.7 | 2.5% |
| Essex | 177.9 | 183.1 | 2.9% |
| Gloucestershire | 59.3 | 60.8 | 2.5% |
| Hampshire | 207.5 | 213.0 | 2.7% |
| Hertfordshire | 121.2 | 124.9 | 3.0% |
| Humberside | 128.4 | 131.8 | 2.6% |
| Kent | 192.1 | 197.4 | 2.7% |
| Lancashire | 204.1 | 209.7 | 2.7% |
| Leicestershire | 118.0 | 121.4 | 2.9% |
| Lincolnshire | 64.3 | 66.3 | 3.2% |
| Norfolk | 87.6 | 89.8 | 2.5% |
| North Yorkshire | 76.7 | 78.6 | 2.5% |
| Northamptonshire | 75.5 | 77.5 | 2.7% |
| Nottinghamshire | 141.4 | 146.0 | 3.3% |
| Staffordshire | 120.6 | 123.8 | 2.7% |
| Suffolk | 71.0 | 72.7 | 2.5% |
| Surrey | 101.8 | 104.4 | 2.5% |
| Sussex | 169.8 | 174.1 | 2.5% |
| Thames Valley | 238.2 | 244.7 | 2.8% |
| Warwickshire | 54.1 | 55.6 | 2.7% |
| West Mercia | 121.8 | 124.9 | 2.5% |
| Wiltshire | 65.2 | 66.8 | 2.5% |
| *Shires Total* | 3669.0 | 3770.0 | 2.8% |
| *English Metropolitan forces* | | | |
| Greater Manchester | 458.9 | 472.5 | 3.0% |
| Merseyside | 267.4 | 274.3 | 2.6% |
| Northumbria | 249.9 | 256.2 | 2.5% |
| South Yorkshire | 204.1 | 209.2 | 2.5% |
| West Midlands | 486.1 | 504.3 | 3.8% |
| West Yorkshire | 339.2 | 350.5 | 3.3% |
| *Mets Total* | 2005.7 | 2067.1 | 3.1% |
| *London Forces* | | | |
| GLA - Police | 1978.3 | 2027.7 | 2.5% |
| City of London [2] | 21.0 | 21.8 | N/A |
| *English Total* | 7674.0 | 7886.6 | 2.8% |
| *Welsh forces* | | | |
| Dyfed-Powys [3] | 54.4 | 55.8 | 2.5% |
| Gwent [3] | 82.6 | 84.7 | 2.5% |
| North Wales [3] | 80.1 | 82.1 | 2.5% |
| South Wales [3] | 181.5 | 186.4 | 2.7% |
| *Welsh total* | 398.6 | 409.0 | 2.6% |
| *TOTAL* | 8072.6 | 8295.7 | 2.8% |

Notes to tables 2-4

1. Rounded to the nearest £100,000. Grant as calculated under the Local Government Finance Report (England) and Local Government Finance (No.2 – Provisional Settlement Police Authorities) Report (Wales). Table includes the effects of floors and scaling.
2. Figures for the City of London relate to Home Office Grant only as calculated in the Police Grant Report (England and Wales). Revenue Support Grant is allocated to the Common Council of the City of London as a whole in respect of all its functions. The City is grouped with education authorities for the purposes of floors.
3. Welsh figures include Home Office floor funding.

*Table 5: Specific Grant Allocation 2008-09 to 2010-11*

| | 2007-08 £m | 2008-09 £m | 2009-10 £m | 2010-11 £m |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Crime Fighting Fund | 277 | 277 | 277 | 277 |
| Neighbourhood Policing Fund & Community Support Officers | 315 | 324 | 332 | 341 |
| Police Counter Terrorism | 472 | 524 | 552 | 579 |
| Basic Command Units | 50 | 40 | 50* | 50* |
| Initial Police Learning & Development Programme | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| *Grand Total* | 1,130 | 1,181 | 1,227* | 1,263* |
| | | +4.5% | +3.9%* | +2.9%* |

* Consultation will take place on how best to use these funds to support local delivery of PSA targets and crime strategy

## Police Officer Pay

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** On 16 November 2006, my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Security, Counter-terrorism, Crime and Policing announced a review of police pay arrangements led by Sir Clive Booth. The first part of Sir Clive Booth's review looked at the arrangements for determining police officer pay in 2007. The second part considered the effectiveness of the current police pay machinery.

On 21 February this year my right hon. Friend published Sir Clive Booth's report on part one of his review. His report "Fair Pay for Police Officers" contained recommendations for determining police officer pay for 2007, including that the police officer pay award for 2007 should be based on a new public sector-facing

index. My right hon. Friend made clear in publishing Sir Clive Booth's report that the method for determining police officer pay for 2007 would then be progressed through the Police Negotiating Board, before the Home Secretary took the final decision.

The Police Negotiating Board have considered the recommendations in Sir Clive Booth's report and the police officer pay award for 2007. Unfortunately the board was not able to reach agreement and the matter was therefore considered by the Police Arbitration Tribunal (PAT). I received the Police Arbitration Tribunal's recommendation for the police officer 2007 pay award on 29 November 2007.

The PAT recommendation was:

> To increase the pay of all ranks of police officers covered by the three Standing Committees of the PNB by 2.5 per cent. with effect from 1 September 2007.

I have considered this recommendation very carefully. In doing so I have taken account of the tribunal's findings and reasoning, the need to ensure value for money and the best use of resources, affordability and Government policy on public sector pay.

The tribunal's recommendation for a 2.5 per cent. increase is based on a new index expanding that proposed by Sir Clive Booth. Having fully considered the PAT findings I accept the recommendation of the tribunal for an award of 2.5 per cent. However I have given very serious consideration to the implementation of this award and concluded that in the interests of affordability, and Government policy on public sector pay, the implementation of this award should be staged. This year's police officer pay award will therefore be 2.5 per cent. with effect from 1 December 2007. Staging will mean that around £40 million extra will be available in 2007-08 to invest in the provision of policing services to the public.

The index suggested by the PAT for the 2007 award could inform discussion and negotiation of the police officer pay award for next year. However, I will continue to give careful consideration to any proposals from the police pay machinery on next year's pay award. This consideration will include how any such award can make the best use of resources, affordability, the need to ensure consistency with Government policy on public sector pay and that the needs of the service and of the taxpayer and public are best served.

Sir Clive Booth has now provided his report on part two of his review "Determining Pay in the Police Service".

I am grateful to Sir Clive Booth for undertaking the review. He has undertaken a wide-ranging consultation with interested parties including the Police Federation, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Police Authorities, the Superintendents' Association, the Chief Police Officers' Staff Association, Unison and others. In his report on part two of his review, Sir Clive Booth recommends that: (i) a pay review body for police officers should be created; (ii) the pay of police officers and police staff should continue to be determined by separate mechanisms; (iii) the existing Police Staff Council machinery should be retained for the time being; and (iv) that chief officers are covered by the proposed pay review body for police officers, but if that is not created chief officers should become one of the groups covered by the Senior Salaries Review Body.

The Government welcomes Sir Clive Booth's report and accepts that a pay review body for police officers, including chief officers, should be created, the pay of police officers and police staff should continue to be determined separately and that the Police Staff Council should be retained. We note that in due course unified officer and staff pay machinery may be considered, in particular as police workforce developments are progressed, but do not think that this is a practical proposition for the time being.

The Government will consult, in the near future, on proposals for implementing the necessary changes to the police pay machinery.

I have today placed a copy of Sir Clive Booth's report in the Library of the House.

### Counter-terrorism

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith):** We are today publishing further documents in relation to the forthcoming counter-terrorism Bill. We are publishing a letter I have sent today to the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee setting out how the Government intend to legislate on pre-charge detention of terrorist suspects; a report by Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, the independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, on the proposals for the counter-terrorism Bill and a paper summarising the results of the public consultation on the proposals for the counter-terrorism Bill. Copies of all three documents are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

## JUSTICE

### Corston Report

**The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson):** I am today publishing a Command Paper—"The Government's Response to the Report by Baroness Corston of a Review of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System" (Cm 7261). Copies are available on the official documents website at:

www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm72/7261/7261.asp

First, the paper indicates how the Government are responding to the 43 recommendations made by my right hon. and noble Friend Baroness Corston in her report. I am delighted that it has been possible to accept almost all of the recommendations.

Secondly, it gives a commitment to produce a detailed delivery plan within the next six months that will provide the mechanism by which all of the commitments identified in the response will be implemented. This will be driven forward by establishing a new cross-departmental Criminal Justice Women's Unit based in the Ministry of Justice.

I am very grateful to my right hon. and noble Friend for the report which provides a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the many and complex issues affecting women offenders and women at risk of offending. The Government agree that more needs to be done to address these issues and to tackle problems at an earlier stage—in the community in particular. The duty of Government is to

protect the public but it is right that we continue to look at how the penal system treats women, and importantly to look at what is most effective in preventing reoffending.

My right hon. and noble Friend considered that the key to success was the need for high level governance and better mechanisms for cross-departmental working. I am therefore very pleased that we are able to set out in the Government response the action that will be taken to improve governance arrangements. The inter-ministerial group on reducing reoffending will provide the governance for this work, we will establish a cross-departmental Criminal Justice Women's Unit within the Ministry of Justice, and we have identified a ministerial champion—the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle)—who will have responsibility for taking forward this work.

The response also sets out a number of ways in which services for women in the criminal justice system will be developed.

I would like to thank my ministerial colleagues and officials in their departments who have contributed to the development of this response. I look forward to working with them, and our non-Government stakeholders, in taking forward these commitments together. I am determined to make sure that more is done to ensure that we have in the 21st century a system that is properly responsive to the needs and characteristics of women.

## TRANSPORT

### A303 Stonehenge

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris):** Making best use of taxpayers' money is essential in the allocation of funding to transport schemes. With that in mind the Government announced in 2005 that it planned to commission a review of options for the A303 Stonehenge improvement after a substantial increase in the estimated cost of the proposed 2.1 km bored tunnel scheme. The approved budget for the scheme when it was taken to public inquiry in 2004 was £223 million. The latest reported cost estimate is £540 million which reflects a number of factors including unexpectedly poor ground conditions, more stringent requirements for tunnelling work and rapid inflation in construction costs.

The review identified a shortlist of possible options, including routes to the north and south of Stonehenge. After careful consideration we have now concluded that due to significant environmental constraints across the whole of the world heritage site, there are no acceptable alternatives to the 2.1 km bored tunnel scheme. However, when set against our wider objectives and priorities, we have concluded that allocating more than £500 million for the implementation of this scheme cannot be justified and would not represent best use of taxpayers' money. I am today placing the final report of the review on the Department's website.

I am therefore today withdrawing all the draft Orders which were considered at the public inquiry and I have instructed the Highways Agency to withdraw route protection for the complete scheme including the proposed bypass of Winterbourne Stoke.

The Government recognise the importance of the A303 Stonehenge improvement scheme and that today's announcement will come as a considerable disappointment for the scheme's supporters. The Highways Agency will investigate possible small-scale improvements to the A303 as part of their overall stewardship of route. The Department also plans to discuss with the south-west region the implications of this decision for the wider strategy for improving the A303-A358 corridor to the M5 at Taunton.

In addition, the Department will work with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and English Heritage on their plans to take forward in consultation with other stakeholders a review of the world heritage site management plan and to consider alternative options for the development of new visitor facilities at Stonehenge in the light of our decision on the A303 improvement. This further work will include examination of the case for closing the junction of the A344 with the A303 as part of the investigation of options for improving the setting of Stonehenge, taking into account the wider heritage and environmental needs, to which the Government remain committed, for this iconic world heritage site. The decision will be subject to a detailed assessment and public consultation, but we recognise the importance of this issue to the sustainability of the world heritage site.

The Government remain committed to working with stakeholders in investigating options for improving the environment of Stonehenge, including new visitor facilities, and exploring possible small-scale measures to improve traffic flows and safety along this section of the A303.

### EU Transport Council

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton):** The Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council took place in Brussels on 29 November-3 December, I attended the first two days, as Europe Minister in the Department for Transport. The Portuguese Minister for Public Works, Transport, and Communications, Mr Mario Lino, was in the chair.

The Council agreed conclusions on the Galileo satellite navigation programme. The conclusions define the general principles covering governance and public sector procurement for the programme. The Transport Council conclusions place a €3.4 billion cap on costs in this financial perspective. The European Commission is identified as the overall programme manager, to be advised by member states. An independent project management team will also review progress and advise the Commission. The conclusions also emphasise the importance of competition in the supply chain, including multiple simultaneous procurement streams. The UK minutes statement, supported by Sweden, stresses the need for review by independent experts at key decision points, including when finalising the contract between the Commission and the European Space Agency for the procurement of the system, at the end of the current In-Orbit Validation phase (in 2010), and once quotes have been received from industry for the deployment phase, as well as regular review of costs, risks and likely revenues from the services to be offered by Galileo.

The Council agreed conclusions on the Commission's action plan on Freight Transport Logistics. The action plan, published in October as part of a non-legislative "freight package", identifies 35 short and medium-term actions for the promotion of a more efficient freight sector. In general, we support the Commission's objective of an efficient freight transport logistics industry which will promote long-term growth and at the same time address issues such as congestion, noise, pollution and $CO_2$ emissions. We support the Commission's approach in facilitating discussions with industry to provide benchmarking and best practice information for logistics providers.

There was a policy debate on progress made on the renewed EU sustainable development strategy adopted by the European Council in June 2006. On the basis of this debate and another conducted in the Environment Council on 30 October, the presidency will prepare input to the conclusions of the December European Council. In the field of transport, the Commission concentrated on its initiatives on the internalisation of external costs, intelligent transport systems and the freight logistics action plan. A communication drawing lessons from these is planned for June 2008. I drew the Council's attention to the UK's new sustainable transport strategy, emphasising that transport has to be at the heart of economic planning and social policy, and make a contribution to public health and social inclusion.

The Council reached a political agreement on three legislative proposals in maritime transport. The first is a regulation on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea and inland waterways in the event of accidents, incorporating the main provisions of the Athens Convention 2002 into EC law. (The Athens Convention provides for compensation for death or injury or loss due to an accident at sea.) The agreed text of the regulation is acceptable to the UK. Shortly before the Council, the draft recast directive amending existing directives governing the activities of ship inspection and survey organisations (classification societies), was divided into a directive and a regulation, as had been requested by a number of member states, including the UK. The new directive contains the provisions directed at member states, and the regulation contains the provisions directly applicable to recognized organisations ("ROs", the classification societies approved to work in the EU). The regulation will give the Commission the power to levy fines on ROs for non-compliance, after consulting member states. The Commission and the Council issued a joint statement on their intention to see similar rules applied at international level. The agreed texts of the directive and the regulation are acceptable to the UK.

Under other business, the Commission presented its recent communication on ports policy. The Commission also proposed that the current Commission observer to the International Maritime Organisation be replaced by a community observer. The Commission would like the Council to take a decision on this in April. I was among Ministers who stated their preference for a decision to be made in the light of a more general review of the community's role in international organisations, planned for 2009.

The Council reached a general approach on a directive on airport charges, which aims to set common principles for the levying of charges for aircraft landing and take-off and the handling of passengers at community airports. The threshold for application of the directive in the compromise text is 5 million passengers per year or the largest airport in a member state which has none reaching that figure. The agreed text was acceptable to the UK. It is more proportionate than the initial proposal and enables current UK economic regulation practices to continue.

The Council reached a political agreement on a recast regulation on common rules for the operation of air transport services in the community (the "third package review") This regulation consolidates three existing regulations of 1992, which established the aviation single market. The proposal seeks to update the 1992 regulations in the light of experience of the single market. It closes certain loopholes and ensures clarity and consistent application of the common rules across all member states. The agreed text is acceptable to the UK.

Two issues of aviation external relations were on the agenda. The Council adopted decisions giving the Commission mandates to negotiate with Jordan on a comprehensive aviation agreement, and with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) on an agreement regarding aviation security audits and inspections and related matters. The principal aim of the latter is to reduce duplication of audits. Both mandates are acceptable to the UK.

In road transport, there were progress reports on two proposals: a recast regulation on common rules for access to the international road haulage market; and a regulation on common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with to pursue the occupation of road transport operator. Some key issues remain to be resolved: on the former proposal, the rules for access to domestic haulage markets ("cabotage"), and on the latter, the establishment of, and access to, national registers of operators.

The Council reached political agreement on two rail transport proposals. These are: a directive amending the 2004 directive on rail safety; and a directive amending the 2004 directive which established the European Rail Agency. The two texts are acceptable to the UK.

The directive on interoperability of the Community rail system was withdrawn from the Council agenda, as the presidency and the European Parliament are likely to move towards a First Reading agreement on adoption of the proposal. This is acceptable to the UK. The EP vote on the Directive has been postponed until the December plenary.

## National Bus Concessionary Fares

**The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton):** I have today made details available of our proposed distribution of special grant funding to local authorities to meet the additional costs of the new statutory minimum bus concession.

Around 11 million older and disabled people will gain better access to vital services and leisure opportunities from 1 April 2008 when the statutory bus concession is extended to free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England. By removing the issue of local authority boundaries as a barrier to free bus travel no

older or disabled person in England need be prevented from bus travel by cost alone and this represents a major step forward in tackling in social inclusion for some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Additional funding of £212 million will be provided by special grant for the period 2008-09 followed by £217 million for 2009-10 and £223 million for 2010-11. This is in addition to the funding that Government provides each year, through the formula grant process, for the existing statutory minimum concession of free off-peak local bus travel. Government are confident this additional funding is sufficient to meet the total cost to local authorities.

A full breakdown of the amounts for each authority will be available on the DfT and CLG websites shortly. The distribution reflects responses received to our consultation on the special grant which closed on 23 November. We will publish a summary of responses shortly. The grant will be paid under section 88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and a full report will therefore be laid before the House in due course.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefit Uprating

**The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Peter Hain):** The proposed rates of benefit for 2008 are set out in the table attached. The annual up-rating of benefits will take place for State Pension and most other benefits in the first full week of the tax year. In 2008, this will be the week beginning 7 April. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland proposes to introduce similar changes for Northern Ireland.

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE | | |
| higher rate | 64.50 | 67.00 |
| lower rate | 43.15 | 44.85 |
| CARER'S ALLOWANCE | 48.65 | 50.55 |
| COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT | | |
| Personal allowances | | |
| single | | |
| - 18 to 24 | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| - 25 or over | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| lone parent - 18 or over | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| couple - one or both 18 or over | 92.80 | 94.95 |
| dependent children | 47.45 | 52.59 |
| pensioner | | |
| - single / lone parent - 60 - 64 | 119.05 | 124.05 |
| - couple - one or both 60 - 64 | 181.70 | 189.35 |
| - single / lone parent - 65 and over | 138.10 | 143.80 |
| - couple - one or both 65 and over | 207.00 | 215.50 |
| Premiums | | |
| family | 16.43 | 16.75 |
| family (lone parent rate) | 22.20 | 22.20 |
| child under 1 | 10.50 | 10.50 |
| pensioner | | |
| - single | 59.90 | 63.55 |
| - couple | 88.90 | 94.40 |
| (all pensioner premiums (including 'higher' and 'enhanced') were equalised from April 2001) | | |
| disability | | |
| - single | 25.25 | 25.85 |
| - couple | 36.00 | 36.85 |
| - enhanced disability premium - single rate | 12.30 | 12.60 |
| - disabled child rate | 18.76 | 19.60 |
| - couple rate | 17.75 | 18.15 |
| severe disability | | |
| - single | 48.45 | 50.35 |
| - couple (lower rate) | 48.45 | 50.35 |
| - couple (higher rate) | 96.90 | 100.70 |
| disabled child | 46.69 | 48.72 |
| carer | 27.15 | 27.75 |
| Non-dependant deductions | | |
| aged 18 or over and in remunerative work | | |
| - gross income: £369.00 or more | 6.95 | 6.95 |
| - gross income: £296 - £368.99 | 5.80 | 5.80 |
| - gross income: £172 - £295.99 | 4.60 | 4.60 |
| - gross income less than £172.00 | 2.30 | 2.30 |
| others aged 18 or over | 2.30 | 2.30 |
| Alternative maximum Council Tax Benefit | | |
| - second adult on IS, JSA(IB) or Pension Credit | 25% of Council Tax | 25% of Council Tax |
| - first adult(s) student(s) | 100% of Council Tax | 100% of Council Tax |
| - second adult's gross income : | | |
| - under £169.00 | 15% of Council Tax | 15% of Council Tax |
| - £169.00 to £219.99 | 7.5% of Council Tax | 7.5% of Council Tax |
| Capital | | |
| upper limit | 16000.00 | 16000.00 |
| amount disregarded | 6000.00 | 6000.00 |
| upper limit (claimant, partner 60 or over) | 16000.00 | 16000.00 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| upper limit (entitled to Pension Credit guarantee credit) | No limit | No limit |
| child disregard | 3000.00 | 3000.00 |
| upper limit (living in a care home) | 16000.00 | 16000.00 |
| amount disregarded (living in a care home) | 10000.00 | 10000.00 |
| Tariff income - £1 for each £250 (or part of) between amount of capital disregarded and capital upper limit | | |
| Tariff income (claimant/partner 60 or over) - £1 for each £500 (or part of) between amount of capital disregard and capital upper limit | | |
| Earnings disregards | | |
| where disability premium awarded | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| various specified employments | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| lone parent | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| where the claimant has a partner | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| single claimant | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| where carer premium awarded | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| childcare charges | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| childcare charges (2 or more children) | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| Other income disregards | | |
| maintenance disregard | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| war disablement pension and war widow's pension | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Armed Forces Compensation Scheme | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student loan | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student's covenanted income | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| income from boarders : fixed amount (£20) plus 50% of the balance of that income | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| additional earnings disregard | 15.45 | 16.05 |
| Expenses for subtenants (£20 fixed from April 08) | | |
| furnished or unfurnished | 4.00 | 20.00 |
| where heating is included, additional | 15.45 | |
| DEPENDENCY INCREASES | | |
| Adult Dependency Increases for spouse or person looking after children with; | | |
| state pension on own insurance, | 52.30 | 54.35 |
| long term incapacity benefit; unemployability supplement | 48.65 | 50.55 |
| severe disablement allowance | 29.25 | 30.40 |
| carers allowance | 29.05 | 30.20 |
| short-term incapacity benefit (over state pension age) | 46.80 | 48.65 |
| maternity allowance/short-term incapacity benefit | 37.90 | 39.40 |
| Child Dependency Increases payable with; | | |
| state pension, widowed mothers/parents allowance, | | |
| short-term incapacity benefit (higher rate); long term incapacity benefit; carers allowance; severe disablement allowance; higher rate industrial death benefit; unemployability supplement; short-term incapacity benefit (over state pension age) | 11.35 | 11.35 |
| Note - The rate of child dependency increase is adjusted where it is payable for the eldest child for whom child benefit (ChB) is also paid. The weekly rate in such cases is reduced by the difference (less £3.65) between the ChB rates for the eldest and subsequent children. | | |
| DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE | | |
| Care Component | | |
| Highest | 64.50 | 67.00 |
| Middle | 43.15 | 44.85 |
| Lowest | 17.10 | 17.75 |
| Mobility Component | | |
| Higher | 45.00 | 46.75 |
| Lower | 17.10 | 17.75 |
| EARNINGS RULES | | |
| Carers Allowance | 87.00 | 95.00 |
| Limit of earnings from councillor's allowance | 86.00 | 88.50 |
| Permitted work earnings limit - higher | 86.00 | 88.50 |
| - lower | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Industrial injuries unemployability supplement permitted earnings level (annual amount) | 4472.00 | 4602.00 |
| Adult dependency increases with; | | |
| short-term incapacity benefit where claimant is | | |
| - under state pension age | 37.90 | 39.40 |
| - over state pension age | 46.80 | 48.65 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| maternity allowance | 37.90 | 39.40 |
| state pension; long-term incapacity benefit; severe disablement allowance; unemployability supplement where dependant | | |
| - is living with claimant | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| - still qualifies for the tapered earnings rule | 45.09 | 45.09 |
| state pension, | 52.30 | 54.35 |
| long-term incapacity benefit and unemployability supplement where dependant not living with claimant | 48.65 | 50.55 |
| severe disablement allowance where dependant not living with claimant | 29.25 | 30.40 |
| carers allowance | 29.05 | 30.20 |
| Child dependency increases - level at which increase is affected by earnings of the spouse or civil partner | | |
| - for first child | 180.00 | 185.00 |
| - additional amount for each subsequent child | 24.00 | 25.00 |
| Pension income threshold for incapacity benefit | 85.00 | 85.00 |
| HOUSING BENEFIT | | |
| Personal allowances | | |
| single | | |
| 16 to 24 | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| 25 or over | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| lone parent | | |
| under 18 | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| 18 or over | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| couple | | |
| both under 18 | 70.70 | 72.35 |
| one or both 18 or over | 92.80 | 94.95 |
| dependent children | 47.45 | 52.59 |
| pensioner | | |
| - single / lone parent - 60 - 64 | 119.05 | 124.05 |
| - couple - one or both 60 - 64 | 181.70 | 189.35 |
| - single / lone parent - 65 and over | 138.10 | 143.80 |
| - couple - one or both 65 and over | 207.00 | 215.50 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| Premiums | | |
| family | 16.43 | 16.75 |
| family (lone parent rate) | 22.20 | 22.20 |
| child under 1 | 10.50 | 10.50 |
| pensioner | | |
| single | 59.90 | 63.55 |
| couple | 88.90 | 94.40 |
| (all pensioner premiums (including 'higher' and 'enhanced') were equalised from April 2001) | | |
| disability | | |
| - single | 25.25 | 25.85 |
| - couple | 36.00 | 36.85 |
| - enhanced disability premium - single rate | 12.30 | 12.60 |
| - disabled child rate | 18.76 | 19.60 |
| - couple rate | 17.75 | 18.15 |
| severe disability | | |
| - single | 48.45 | 50.35 |
| - couple (lower rate) | 48.45 | 50.35 |
| - couple (higher rate) | 96.90 | 100.70 |
| disabled child | 46.69 | 48.72 |
| carer | 27.15 | 27.75 |
| Non-dependant deductions from rent rebates and allowances; | | |
| aged 25 and over in receipt of Income Support or income based Jobseeker's Allowance; aged 18 or over, not in remunerative work | 7.40 | 7.40 |
| aged 18 or over and in remunerative work | | |
| - gross income: less than £116.00 | 7.40 | 7.40 |
| - gross income: £116 to £171.99 | 17.00 | 17.00 |
| - gross income: £172 to £222.99 | 23.35 | 23.35 |
| - gross income: £223 to £295.99 | 38.20 | 38.20 |
| - gross income: £296 to £368.99 | 43.50 | 43.50 |
| - gross income: £369.00 and above | 47.75 | 47.75 |
| Service charges for fuel | | |
| heating | 15.45 | 15.45 |
| hot water | 1.80 | 1.80 |
| lighting | 1.25 | 1.25 |
| cooking | 1.80 | 1.80 |
| Amount ineligible for meals; | | |
| three or more meals a day | | |
| - single claimant | 21.10 | 21.60 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| - each person in family aged 16 or over | 21.10 | 21.60 |
| - each child under 16 | 10.65 | 10.90 |
| less than three meals a day | | |
| - single claimant | 14.05 | 14.35 |
| - each person in family aged 16 or over | 14.05 | 14.35 |
| - each child under 16 | 7.05 | 7.20 |
| breakfast only - claimant and each member of family | 2.60 | 2.65 |
| Capital | | |
| upper limit | 16000.00 | 16000.00 |
| amount disregarded | 6000.00 | 6000.00 |
| upper limit (claimant/partner 60 or over) | 16000.00 | 16000.00 |
| upper limit (entitled to Pension Credit guarantee credit) | No limit | No limit |
| child disregard | 3000.00 | 3000.00 |
| upper limit (living in a care home) | 16000.00 | 16000.00 |
| amount disregarded (living in a care home) | 10000.00 | 10000.00 |
| Tariff income - £1 for each £250 (or part of) between amount of capital disregarded and capital upper limit | | |
| Tariff income (claimant/partner 60 or over) - £1 for each £500 (or part of) between amount of capital disregard and capital upper limit | | |
| Earnings disregards | | |
| where disability premium awarded | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| various specified employments | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| lone parent | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| where the claimant has a partner | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| single claimant | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| Where carer premium awarded | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| childcare charges | 175.00 | 175.00 |
| childcare charges (2 or more children) | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| Other income disregards | | |
| maintenance disregard | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| war disablement pension and war widow's pension | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Armed Forces Compensation Scheme | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student loan | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student's covenanted income | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| income from boarders : fixed amount (£20) plus 50% of the balance of that income | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| additional earnings disregard | 15.45 | 16.05 |
| Expenses for subtenants (£20 fixed from April 08) | | |
| furnished or unfurnished | 4.00 | 20.00 |
| where heating is included, additional | 15.45 | |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| Maximum rates for recovery of overpayments | | |
| ordinary overpayments | 9.00 | 9.15 |
| where claimant convicted of fraud | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| INCAPACITY BENEFIT | | |
| Long-term Incapacity Benefit | 81.35 | 84.50 |
| Short-term Incapacity Benefit (under state pension age) | | |
| lower rate | 61.35 | 63.75 |
| higher rate | 72.55 | 75.40 |
| Short-term Incapacity Benefit (over state pension age) | | |
| lower rate | 78.05 | 81.10 |
| higher rate | 81.35 | 84.50 |
| Increase of long-term Incapacity Benefit for age | | |
| higher rate | 17.10 | 17.75 |
| lower rate | 8.55 | 8.90 |
| Invalidity Allowance (Transitional) | | |
| higher rate | 17.10 | 17.75 |
| middle rate | 11.00 | 11.40 |
| lower rate | 5.50 | 5.70 |
| INCOME SUPPORT | | |
| Personal Allowances | | |
| single | | |
| under 18 - usual rate | 35.65 | 47.95 |
| under 18 - higher rate payable in specific circumstances | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| 18 to 24 | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| 25 or over | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| lone parent | | |
| under 18 - usual rate | 35.65 | 47.95 |
| under 18 - higher rate payable in specific circumstances | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| 18 or over | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| couple | | |
| both under 18 | 35.65 | 47.95 |
| both under 18 - one disabled | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| both under 18 - with responsibility for a child | 70.70 | 72.35 |
| one under 18, one 18-24 | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| one under 18, one 25+ | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| both 18 or over | 92.80 | 94.95 |
| dependent children | 47.45 | 52.59 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| Premiums | | |
| family | 16.43 | 16.75 |
| family (lone parent rate) | 16.43 | 16.75 |
| pensioner | | |
| couple (all pensioner premiums (including 'higher' and 'enhanced') were equalised from April 2001) | 88.90 | 94.40 |
| disability | | |
| - single | 25.25 | 25.85 |
| - couple | 36.00 | 36.85 |
| - enhanced disability premium - single rate | 12.30 | 12.60 |
| - disabled child rate | 18.76 | 19.60 |
| - couple rate | 17.75 | 18.15 |
| severe disability | | |
| - single | 48.45 | 50.35 |
| - couple (lower rate) | 48.45 | 50.35 |
| - couple (higher rate) | 96.90 | 100.70 |
| disabled child | 46.69 | 48.72 |
| carer | 27.15 | 27.75 |
| Housing cost deductions for non-dependants | | |
| aged 25 and over in receipt of Income Support or income based Jobseeker's Allowance; aged 18 or over not in work. | 7.40 | 7.40 |
| aged 18 or over and in remunerative work | | |
| - gross income: less than £116.00 | 7.40 | 7.40 |
| - gross income: £116 to £171.99 | 17.00 | 17.00 |
| - gross income: £172 to £222.99 | 23.35 | 23.35 |
| - gross income: £223 to £295.99 | 38.20 | 38.20 |
| - gross income: £296 to £368.99 | 43.50 | 43.50 |
| - gross income: £369.00 and above | 47.75 | 47.75 |
| Deduction for third party payments – arrears of housing, fuel, water charges, council tax etc. and deductions for the Eligible Loan Deduction Scheme and Integration Loan Scheme. | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| Deduction for child support, contribution towards maintenance (CTM) | | |
| standard deduction | 6.00 | 6.10 |
| lower deduction | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| Arrears of Community Charge | | |
| court order against claimant | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| court order against couple | 4.65 | 4.75 |
| Third party deductions – amount for personal expenses | 20.45 | 21.15 |
| Third party deduction for fine or compensation order | | |
| standard rate | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| lower rate | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| Maximum rates for recovery of overpayments | | |
| ordinary overpayments | 9.00 | 9.15 |
| where claimant convicted of fraud | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| Relevant sum for strikers | 32.00 | 32.50 |
| Capital | | |
| upper limit | 16000.00 | 16000.00 |
| amount disregarded | 6000.00 | 6000.00 |
| amount disregarded (living in a care home) | 10000.00 | 10000.00 |
| child's disregard limit | 3000.00 | 3000.00 |
| Tariff income - £1 for each £250 (or part of) between amount of capital disregarded and capital upper limit. | | |
| Disregards | | |
| standard earnings | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| couples earnings | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| higher earnings | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| war disablement pension and war widow's pension | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Armed Forces Compensation Scheme | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student loan | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student's covenanted income | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| income from boarders : fixed amount (£20) plus 50% of the balance of that income | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Expenses for subtenants (£20 fixed from April 08) | | |
| furnished or unfurnished | 4.00 | 20.00 |
| where heating is included, additional | 15.45 | |
| INDUSTRIAL DEATH BENEFIT | | |
| Widows pension | | |
| higher rate | 87.30 | 90.70 |
| lower rate | 26.19 | 27.21 |
| Widowers pension | 87.30 | 90.70 |
| INDUSTRIAL INJURIES DISABLEMENT BENEFIT | | |
| 18 and over, or under 18 with dependants | | |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| 100% | 131.70 | 136.80 |
| 90% | 118.53 | 123.12 |
| 80% | 105.36 | 109.44 |
| 70% | 92.19 | 95.76 |
| 60% | 79.02 | 82.08 |
| 50% | 65.85 | 68.40 |
| 40% | 52.68 | 54.72 |
| 30% | 39.51 | 41.04 |
| 20% | 26.34 | 27.36 |
| Under 18 | | |
| 100% | 80.70 | 83.85 |
| 90% | 72.63 | 75.47 |
| 80% | 64.56 | 67.08 |
| 70% | 56.49 | 58.70 |
| 60% | 48.42 | 50.31 |
| 50% | 40.35 | 41.93 |
| 40% | 32.28 | 33.54 |
| 30% | 24.21 | 25.16 |
| 20% | 16.14 | 16.77 |
| Maximum life gratuity (lump sum) | 8750.00 | 9090.00 |
| Unemployability Supplement | 81.35 | 84.50 |
| increase for early incapacity | | |
| - higher rate | 17.10 | 17.75 |
| - middle rate | 11.00 | 11.40 |
| - lower rate | 5.50 | 5.70 |
| Maximum reduced earnings allowance | 52.68 | 54.72 |
| Maximum retirement allowance | 13.17 | 13.68 |
| Constant attendance allowance | | |
| exceptional rate | 105.40 | 109.60 |
| intermediate rate | 79.05 | 82.20 |
| normal maximum rate | 52.70 | 54.80 |
| part-time rate | 26.35 | 27.40 |
| Exceptionally severe disablement allowance | 52.70 | 54.80 |
| **JOBSEEKER'S ALLOWANCE** | | |
| Contribution based Jobseeker's Allowance - personal rates | | |
| under 18 | 35.65 | 47.95 |
| 18 to 24 | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| 25 or over | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance - personal allowances | | |
| under 18 | 35.65 | 47.95 |
| 18 to 24 | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| 25 or over | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| lone parent | | |
| under 18 - usual rate | 35.65 | 47.95 |
| under 18 - where higher rate payable | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| 18 or over | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| couple | | |
| both under 18 | 35.65 | 47.95 |
| both under 18 - one disabled | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| both under 18 - where higher rate payable | 70.70 | 72.35 |
| one under 18 and other 18-24 | 46.85 | 47.95 |
| one under 18 and other 25 + | 59.15 | 60.50 |
| both 18 or over | 92.80 | 94.95 |
| dependent children | 47.45 | 52.59 |
| Premiums | | |
| family | 16.43 | 16.75 |
| family (lone parent rate) | 16.43 | 16.75 |
| pensioner | | |
| single | 59.90 | 63.55 |
| couple | 88.90 | 94.40 |
| (all pensioner premiums (including 'higher' and 'enhanced') were equalised from April 2001) | | |
| disability | | |
| - single | 25.25 | 25.85 |
| - couple | 36.00 | 36.85 |
| - enhanced disability premium - single rate | 12.30 | 12.60 |
| - disabled child rate | 18.76 | 19.60 |
| - couple rate | 17.75 | 18.15 |
| severe disability | | |
| - single | 48.45 | 50.35 |
| - couple (lower rate) | 48.45 | 50.35 |
| - couple (higher rate) | 96.90 | 100.70 |
| disabled child | 46.69 | 48.72 |
| carer | 27.15 | 27.75 |
| Housing cost deductions for non-dependants | | |
| aged 25 and over, in receipt of Income Support or income based Jobseeker's Allowance; aged 18 or over, not in remunerative work. | 7.40 | 7.40 |
| aged 18 or over and in remunerative work | | |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| - gross income: less than £116.00 | 7.40 | 7.40 |
| - gross income: £116 to £171.99 | 17.00 | 17.00 |
| - gross income: £172 to £222.99 | 23.35 | 23.35 |
| - gross income: £223 to £295.99 | 38.20 | 38.20 |
| - gross income: £296 to £368.99 | 43.50 | 43.50 |
| - gross income: £369.00 and above | 47.75 | 47.75 |
| Deduction for third party payments from income based Jobseeker's Allowance for | | |
| - arrears of housing, fuel, water charges, council tax etc. and deductions for the Eligible Loan Deduction Scheme and Integration Loan Scheme. | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| - child support, contribution towards maintenance (CTM) | | |
| standard deduction | 6.00 | 6.10 |
| lower deduction | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| - arrears of Community Charge | | |
| court order against claimant | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| court order against couple | 4.65 | 4.75 |
| - third party deduction amount for personal expenses | 20.45 | 21.15 |
| from contribution based Jobseeker's Allowance for | | |
| - arrears of Community Charge, Council Tax, fines and overpayment recovery | | |
| Age 16 - 17 | 11.88 | 15.98 |
| Age 18 - 24 | 15.61 | 15.98 |
| Age 25 + | 19.71 | 20.16 |
| - maximum deduction for arrears of Child Maintenance (CTM) | | |
| Age 16 - 17 | 11.88 | 15.98 |
| Age 18 - 24 | 15.61 | 15.98 |
| Age 25 + | 19.71 | 20.16 |
| - third party deduction for fine or compensation order | | |
| standard rate | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| lower rate | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| Maximum rates for recovery of overpayments in income based Jobseeker's Allowance | | |
| ordinary overpayments | 9.00 | 9.15 |
| where claimant convicted of fraud | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| Prescribed sum for strikers | 32.00 | 32.50 |
| Capital | | |
| upper limit | 16000.00 | 16000.00 |
| amount disregarded | 6000.00 | 6000.00 |
| Amount disregarded (living in a care home) | 10000.00 | 10000.00 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| child's limit | 3000.00 | 3000.00 |
| Tariff income - £1 for each £250 (or part of) between amount of capital disregarded and capital upper limit. | | |
| Disregards | | |
| standard earnings | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| couples earnings | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| higher earnings | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| war disablement pension and war widow's pension | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Armed Forces Compensation Scheme | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student loan | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| student's covenanted income | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| income from boarders : fixed amount (£20) plus 50% of the balance of that income. | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Expenses for subtenants (£20 fixed from April 08) | | |
| furnished or unfurnished | 4.00 | 20.00 |
| where heating is included, additional | 15.45 | |
| MATERNITY ALLOWANCE | | |
| Standard rate | 112.75 | 117.18 |
| MA threshold | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| PENSION CREDIT | | |
| Standard minimum guarantee | | |
| single | 119.05 | 124.05 |
| couple | 181.70 | 189.35 |
| Additional amount for severe disability | | |
| single | 48.45 | 50.35 |
| couple (one qualifies) | 48.45 | 50.35 |
| couple (both qualify) | 96.90 | 100.70 |
| Additional amount for carers | 27.15 | 27.75 |
| Savings credit | | |
| threshold - single | 87.30 | 91.20 |
| threshold - couple | 139.60 | 145.80 |
| maximum - single | 19.05 | 19.71 |
| maximum - couple | 25.26 | 26.13 |
| Capital | | |
| Amount disregard | 6000.00 | 6000.00 |
| Amount disregard - care homes | 10000.00 | 10000.00 |
| Deemed income - £1 for each £500 (or part of) in excess of the amount disregarded | | |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| Housing cost deductions for non-dependants | | |
| aged 25 and over in receipt of Income Support or income based Jobseeker's Allowance; aged 18 or over not in work. | 7.40 | 7.40 |
| aged 18 or over and in remunerative work | | |
| - gross income: less than £116.00 | 7.40 | 7.40 |
| - gross income: £116 to £171.99 | 17.00 | 17.00 |
| - gross income: £172 to £222.99 | 23.35 | 23.35 |
| - gross income: £223 to £295.99 | 38.20 | 38.20 |
| - gross income: £296 to £368.99 | 43.50 | 43.50 |
| - gross income: £369.00 and above | 47.75 | 47.75 |
| Amount for claimant and first spouse in polygamous marriage | 181.70 | 189.35 |
| amount for additional spouse | 62.65 | 65.30 |
| Disregards | | |
| standard earnings | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| couples earnings | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| higher earnings | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| War disablement pension and War widows pension | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Armed Forces Compensation Scheme | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Widowed Parent's Allowance | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Income from subtenants | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| income from boarders : fixed amount (£20) plus 50% of the balance of that income | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Deduction for third party payments – arrears of housing, fuel, water charges, council tax etc. and deductions for the Eligible Loan Deduction Scheme and Integration Loan Scheme. | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| Deduction for child support, contribution towards maintenance (CTM) | | |
| standard deduction | 6.00 | 6.10 |
| lower deduction | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| Arrears of Community Charge | | |
| court order against claimant | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| court order against couple | 4.65 | 4.75 |
| Third party deductions – amount for personal expenses. | 20.45 | 21.15 |
| Third party deduction for fine or compensation order | | |
| standard rate | 5.00 | 5.00 |
| lower rate | 3.00 | 3.05 |
| Maximum rates for recovery of overpayments | | |
| ordinary overpayments | 9.00 | 9.15 |
| where claimant convicted of fraud | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| PNEUMOCONIOSIS, BYSSINOSIS, AND MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES SCHEME AND THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (SUPPLEMENTATION) . Total disablement allowance and major incapacity allowance (maximum) | 131.70 | 136.80 |
| Partial disablement allowance | 48.65 | 50.55 |
| Unemployability supplement | 81.35 | 84.50 |
| appropriate increases for early incapacity | | |
| - higher rate | 17.10 | 17.75 |
| - middle rate | 11.00 | 11.40 |
| - lower rate | 5.50 | 5.70 |
| Constant attendance allowance | | |
| exceptional rate | 105.40 | 109.60 |
| intermediate rate | 79.05 | 82.20 |
| normal maximum rate | 52.70 | 54.80 |
| part-time rate | 26.35 | 27.40 |
| Exceptionally severe disablement allowance | 52.70 | 54.80 |
| Lesser incapacity allowance | | |
| maximum rate of allowance | 48.65 | 50.55 |
| based on loss of earnings over | 64.50 | 67.00 |
| STATE PENSION | | |
| Category A or B | 87.30 | 90.70 |
| Category B(lower) - husband's insurance | 52.30 | 54.35 |
| Category C or D - non-contributory | 52.30 | 54.35 |
| Category C(lower) - non-contributory | 31.30 | 32.50 |
| Additional pension | | Increase by 3.9% |
| Increments to:- | | Increase by: |
| - Basic pension | | 3.9% |
| - Additional pension | | 3.9% |
| - Graduated Retirement Benefit (GRB) | | 3.9% |
| - Inheritable lump sum | | 3.9% |
| Contracted-out deduction from Additional Pension in respect of pre-April 1988 contracted-out earnings | | Nil |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| Contracted-out Deduction from Additional Pension in respect of contracted-out earnings from April 1988 to 1997 | | 3.0% |
| Graduated Retirement Benefit (unit) | 0.1057 | 0.1098 |
| Graduated Retirement Benefit (Inherited) | | Increase by 3.9% |
| Addition at age 80 | 0.25 | 0.25 |
| **SEVERE DISABLEMENT ALLOWANCE** | | |
| Basic rate | 49.15 | 51.05 |
| Age-related addition (from Dec 90) | | |
| Higher rate | 17.10 | 17.75 |
| Middle rate | 11.00 | 11.40 |
| Lower rate | 5.50 | 5.70 |
| **STATUTORY ADOPTION PAY** | | |
| Earnings threshold | 87.00 | 90.00 |
| Standard Rate | 112.75 | 117.18 |
| **STATUTORY MATERNITY PAY** | | |
| Earnings threshold | 87.00 | 90.00 |
| Standard rate | 112.75 | 117.18 |
| **STATUTORY PATERNITY PAY** | | |
| Earnings threshold | 87.00 | 90.00 |
| Standard Rate | 112.75 | 117.18 |
| **STATUTORY SICK PAY** | | |
| Earnings threshold | 87.00 | 90.00 |
| Standard rate | 72.55 | 75.40 |

| *(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)* | RATES *2007* | RATES *2008* |
|---|---|---|
| **WIDOW'S BENEFIT** | | |
| Widowed mother's allowance | 87.30 | 90.70 |
| Widow's pension | | |
| standard rate | 87.30 | 90.70 |
| age-related | | |
| age 54 (49) | 81.19 | 84.35 |
| 53 (48) | 75.08 | 78.00 |
| 52 (47) | 68.97 | 71.65 |
| 51 (46) | 62.86 | 65.30 |
| 50 (45) | 56.75 | 58.96 |
| 49 (44) | 50.63 | 52.61 |
| 48 (43) | 44.52 | 46.26 |
| 47 (42) | 38.41 | 39.91 |
| 46 (41) | 32.30 | 33.56 |
| 45 (40) | 26.19 | 27.21 |
| Note: For deaths occurring before 11 April 1988 refer to age-points shown in brackets | | |
| **BEREAVEMENT BENEFIT** | | |
| Bereavement payment (lump sum) | 2000.00 | 2000.00 |
| Widowed parent's allowance | 87.30 | 90.70 |
| Bereavement Allowance | | |
| standard rate | 87.30 | 90.70 |
| age-related | | |
| age 54 | 81.19 | 84.35 |
| 53 | 75.08 | 78.00 |
| 52 | 68.97 | 71.65 |
| 51 | 62.86 | 65.30 |
| 50 | 56.75 | 58.96 |
| 49 | 50.63 | 52.61 |
| 48 | 44.52 | 46.26 |
| 47 | 38.41 | 39.91 |
| 46 | 32.30 | 33.56 |
| 45 | 26.19 | 27.21 |

# Petitions

*Monday 26 November 2007*

## HEALTH

### Abortion Act 1967 (Repeal)

*The Humble Petition of Linda White and other residents of Wellingborough including the Parish of our Lady of Our Sacred Heart, Wellingborough,*

That they bear witness to the fortieth anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act 1967 and appeal to Her Majesty's government, in its forthcoming review of the act, to seek ways of providing alternative support for families who choose to abort their unborn babies and to hasten the day when this terrible act is removed from the statute book.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Health to introduce a bill to repeal the Abortion Act 1967.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report,* 29 October 2007; Vol. 465, c. 620.] [P000067]

*Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:*

It is accepted Parliamentary practice that proposals for changes in the law on abortion come from backbench members and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes.

The Government believes that the Abortion Act works as Parliament intended.

# Petitions

*Wednesday 28 November 2007*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Development (Durham)

*The Petition of the people of the City of Durham,*

Declares that the green space formerly the Bowling Green, situated on the Old Racecourse on the bank of the river Wear at Elvet waterside, is under threat from development.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Communities and Local Government to do all to protect and retain this public space for the present citizens of the City of Durham, future residents, posterity and visitors.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Roberta Blackman-Woods, Official Report,* 24 July 2007; Vol. 463, c. 806 .] [P000068]

*Observation from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:*

1. Development proposals for Elvet Waterside affecting the former Bowling Green are at an early stage, and the City Council and the developer are still in discussion with statutory consultees and local residents about the future development. There is no definite date yet for submission of a planning application.

2. Development management is primarily the responsibility of the City of Durham as local planning authority, and the Secretary of State would not comment on the merits or otherwise of an application, or prospective application.

3. The law requires decisions on planning applications to be in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Government's statements of national planning policy, such as PPG 17 "Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation", are material considerations which must be taken into account, where relevant, in planning decisions, but it is the responsibility of Durham City Council to identify and weigh up all the different issues, in the context of the specific local circumstances, having regard to the views of local residents and other interested parties.

4. The Secretary of State may decide to call-in an application for her own determination where she considers that it raises issues of more than local importance, but her policy is to be very selective about this. As it is possible that the Elvet Waterside application may at some future date come within her jurisdiction, it would be inappropriate to comment on the matter raised in the petition.

### Justice

### Mobile Telephone Mast (Canvey Island)

*The Petition of Cheryl Oldroyd, residents of Canvey Island and others,*

Declares that the proposal submitted by $O_2$ to erect a mobile telephone mast on the High Street, Canvey Island, is unacceptable due to the ill-considered suitability of a busy residential and business area for such a structure. The petitioners emphasise the significant lack of understanding in respect of the longer-term effects of such telephone masts on the health of those within the immediate vicinity and particularly on young children. Whilst the petitioners acknowledge the need to erect and maintain such structures in the interests of business, they submit that more suitable locations for this structure are available, of which the applicant is already aware and should consider.

The Petitioners therefore request the House to urge the Government to encourage Castle Point Borough Councillors to reject the plans and seek an alternative, less densely populated area, in consideration of the wishes of residents.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 24 July 2007; Vol. 463, c. 808 .] [P000069]

*Observation from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:*

Decisions on planning and prior approval applications for telecommunications are, in the first instance, the responsibility of local planning authorities. The role of the Secretary of State in the appeal process requires the Government to remain impartial. If the Government were to pass comment or give advice relating to the case, we would be at risk of fettering the Secretary of State's discretion in the event that this matter was to proceed to an appeal. Government policy is not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is absolutely necessary to do so and calling in cases for determination by the Secretary of State is comparatively rare.

Guidance on the handling of planning and prior approval applications is set out in Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 8: Telecommunications. The policy states "Whilst local planning authorities are encouraged to respond positively to telecommunications development proposals, they should take account of the advice on the protection of urban and rural areas in other planning policy guidance notes. Material considerations include the significance of the proposed development as part of a national network. In making an application for planning permission, or prior approval, operators may be expected to provide evidence regarding the need for the proposed development."

The guidance also states

"In order to limit visual intrusion, the Government attaches considerable importance to keeping the number of radio and telecommunications masts, and of the sites for such installations, to the minimum consistent with the efficient operation of the network".

The Health Protection Agency's Radiation Protection Division continually monitors the health impact of mobile phone technologies. The research field was comprehensively reviewed in 'Health Effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields - Report of an independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation' (Documents of the National Radiological Protection Board, Volume 14, No 2 2003).

The report specifically mentions mobile telephone masts saying: "Exposure levels from living near to mobile phone base stations are extremely low, and the overall evidence indicates that they are unlikely to pose a risk to health".

Nevertheless, the Government takes very seriously public concern about the possibility of health effects associated with telecommunications systems and has part financed the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme which has funded a number of studies in this area. The MTHR programme management committee published a report on 12 September 2007, describing the work it has supported in the UK and placing it in context with work going on undertaken elsewhere in the world. The research programme included the largest and most robust studies of electrical hypersensitivity undertaken anywhere in the world and found no convincing evidence that the unpleasant symptoms, such as headaches, dizziness and tingling, experienced by sufferers of electrical hypersensitivity are the result of exposure to signals from mobile phones or base stations. In addition, the programme funded some basic measurements of radio signals from smaller base stations in the UK such as those found in airports, railway stations and shopping mails and found that exposures were well below international guidelines.

As stated in PPG 8,

"It is the Government's firm view that the planning system is not the place for determining health safeguards. It remains central Government's responsibility to decide what measures are necessary to protect public health. In the Government's view, if a proposed mobile phone base station meets the ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure it should not be necessary for a local planning authority, in processing an application for planning permission or prior approval, to consider further the health aspects and concerns about them". This remains the Government's position.

## Family Courts (Reform)

*The Petition of The Pullen Family,*

Declares that a recent case in the Family Court has highlighted an injustice in the current system. The daughter of Rachel Pullen has been put up for adoption because she is alleged, by Nottingham City Council, to be too ill for her mother to care for her. The Council assessed Rachel Pullen as 'not having the capacity to give instructions to your solicitor'. As a consequence the Official Solicitor was instructed to represent her. This case demonstrates that there is a conflict of interest under current legislation which works against the interests of parents. The Petitioners believe that judgements on an individual's competence should be made by a fully independent authority to ensure justice is both done and seen to be done.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to legislate to prevent courts from accepting the opinion of experts paid by the local authority as to the capacity of parties to give instructions to solicitors and further to investigate on how many occasions the Official Solicitor has been used by Local Authorities to progress the removal and adoption of a child from its birth family.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by John Hemming, Official Report,* 23 October 2007; Vol. 465, c. 258 .] [P000070]

*Observation from the Secretary of State for Justice:*

The Government takes the issues raised very seriously and would like to highlight the following points in response:

*Injustice in the Family Courts*

Children involved in care proceedings are considered to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm so the cases involve issues of the most extreme importance. In such cases, the courts—with their independent judiciary—are required by law to treat the interests of the child as paramount.

An adoption panel advises and makes independent recommendations to the adoption agency/local authority on whether the child should be placed for adoption. The panel is made up of a Panel Chair, a Medical Adviser, an elected councillor, a representative of the fostering agency, a foster carer from another agency, independent members, social workers and others who have indirect experience of adoption. The court will then make its decision after hearing and considering all the evidence put before them by all parties in the proceedings, including parents and experts. So the process is:

*Official Solicitor*

The Official Solicitor is an independent statutory office holder appointed under the Supreme Court Act 1981. He is an officer of the Supreme Court of England and Wales. Ministers are not responsible for his decisions in individual cases.

*Use of Experts*

Where a lawyer, usually a solicitor for the party that wants expert evidence to be presented, approaches an expert, the expert will be given information about the issues likely to arise and the questions to be answered. The lawyer has to provide information, including the qualifications and expertise of the expert (often by a curriculum vitae) to the court. The lawyer must justify the need for an expert, say whether the expert can be jointly appointed by two or more of the parties to the case and, if so, how costs might be apportioned. There is a presumption that an opinion from a single expert in a speciality will suffice because, in the majority of cases, medical experts will agree about the evidence of harm to a child. However, any of the parties may contest this and apply to the court for the appointment of a separate expert.

There are no plans to legislate to prevent courts from accepting the opinions of independent experts paid for by the Local Authority.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 26 November 2007*

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Members: Allowances

**Norman Baker:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many full-time equivalent officials were employed to deal with hon. Members' allowance claims in the Department of Finance and Administration and its predecessor department in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 1996 and *(c)* 1986. [165087]

**Nick Harvey:** At 1 April 2006 approximately 30 full-time equivalent, permanent staff were employed to deal with hon. Members' allowance claims in the Department of Finance and Administration. Comparable figures are no longer held for 1996 and 1986.

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has paid local transporters in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Pakistan to transport British goods for resupply in each year since 2002. [162568]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The cost of onward movement from Kandahar to other UK bases in Afghanistan between April 2006 and March 2007 was around £3.2 million. Data prior to April 2006 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The cost of transport through Pakistan is subsumed in the costs associated with the contract for the transport of supplies from the UK to the UK logistics hub in Afghanistan. A breakdown cannot be provided of the amount paid to 'local' transporters as the MOD does not have visibility of such sub-contracts.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many visits were made by personnel from his Department to detainees transferred from British forces to the government of Afghanistan in each year since 2005; and what the purpose was of each visit. [165889]

**Des Browne:** Records show that, since 27 April 2007, UK armed forces personnel have made 13 visits to see detainees transferred to the government of Afghanistan, normally seeing several detainees in one visit. The purpose of the visits was to check on the welfare and status of the detainees.

Information related to visits prior to 27 April 2007 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision there is to provide *(a)* washing facilities and *(b)* washing powder for clothing at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. [167404]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Personnel at Camp Bastion have access to a contract laundry facility to wash clothing. This facility is provided free of charge. The frequency of the laundry service currently allows for two 5 kg bags per person per week. Washing powder is available from the NAAFI should personnel wish to wash items by hand.

### Armed Forces: Death

**Mr. Liddell-Grainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are taken to keep families informed during enquiries into the death of servicemen; and if he will make a statement. [167070]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The armed forces ensure that families are kept informed of all developments, regarding investigations into the deaths of service personnel, through their respective visiting officers. Where there is a board of inquiry, families will be given personal briefings on the process, findings, conclusions and recommendations.

### Armed Forces: Desertion

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces reported absent without leave between January 2004 and October 2007 were aged between *(a)* 18 to 20, *(b)* 21 to 25, *(c)* 26 to 30, *(d)* 31 to 35 and *(e)* 36-years-old or above. [165799]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The breakdown of personnel reported absent without leave by age group between January 2004 and October 2007 for the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Army is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The number of Royal Navy personnel broken down by age group who have been reported absent without leave between January 2004 and October 2007 is shown in the following table.

| | *Age 18-20* | *Age 21-25* | *Age 26-30* | *Age 31-36* | *Age 36+* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 66 | 67 | 23 | 18 | 10 | 184 |
| 2005 | 89 | 70 | 20 | 15 | 2 | 196 |
| 2006 | 77 | 57 | 8 | 12 | 3 | 157 |
| 2007 | 49 | 47 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 115 |
| Total | 281 | 241 | 59 | 49 | 22 | 652 |

### Armed Forces: Postal Services

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the cost of the free postal service for troops announced on 12 November will be paid by *(a)* Royal Mail and *(b)* the British Forces Post Office; and if he will make a statement. [165886]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Ministry of Defence does not maintain details on the cost to Defence of providing a postal service to operational theatres as the value varies according to the volume of mail presented. If volume rises significantly then costs will increase exponentially due to additional air charter and personnel deployment costs.

For illustrative reasons, the current full commercial cost of sending a 2 kg airmail packet to Iraq or Afghanistan via Royal Mail is £20.72. If this cost is taken as being representative of the total cost of sending a 2 kg package to Iraq or Afghanistan then the Ministry of Defence was paying 69 per cent. prior to the introduction of the freepost service on 3 September. The remaining 31 per cent. was paid by the consigner. As a result of the extension of the freepost service jointly announced with Royal Mail on 12 November, the Royal Mail will fund approximately 15.5 per cent. of the illustrative cost, with Ministry of Defence funding the remaining 84.5 per cent.

### Army: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour interval was for the *(a)* infantry, *(b)* Royal Artillery, *(c)* Royal Engineers, *(d)* Royal Corps of Signals, *(e)* Royal Armoured Corps, *(f)* Household Cavalry, *(g)* Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers and *(h)* Army Medical Services in the latest period for which figures are available. [165883]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The average unit tour intervals for the Infantry and those units of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, the Royal Armoured Corps and the Army Medical Services which deploy as fully formed units, are 23.5, 20.8, 23.1 and 24.5 months respectively. This is calculated on the basis of the mean time between the start of the most recent deployment and the end of the previous deployment.

The Household Cavalry has only deployed as a unit twice since January 2003: Iraq (April 2004-October 2004) and Afghanistan (October 2007-April 2008). As such, its average unit tour interval and actual unit tour interval is 35 months.

The unit tour interval is a less relevant measure when applied to the Corps of Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Signals and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. This is due to the frequency with which personnel move between formed units within these Corps (the personnel deployed with a unit will be substantially different from the personnel deployed with the same unit on a previous occasion). Consequently, unit tour interval data for these Corps are not routinely collated.

### Ballistic Missile Defence

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of the US Missile Defense programme to UK defence policy. [166998]

**Des Browne:** The US plans to place further missile defence assets in Europe are an important step towards providing a defensive capability against potential future ballistic missile threats to the UK. We will continue to discuss with the US how this coverage will be achieved as the system evolves.

### Guided Weapons

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the Hydra CRV-7 rocket system has been reclassified as no longer a cluster munition; and if he will make a statement. [168232]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1247W, to the hon. Member for Gower (Mr. Caton).

There is no international definition of a cluster munition, nor of the number of sub-munitions a weapon must carry in order to be classed as a cluster munition. An element of the UK's own understanding of a cluster munition is that a weapon should carry more than 10 sub-munitions in order to be classified a cluster munition.

The term 'Hydra' refers to an American rocket system which we do not use. The Canadian Rocket Vehicle 7 (CRV-7) is manufactured in Canada and is the version currently in-service with UK forces. Multi Purpose Sub Munition is one of the rocket variants of the CRV-7 system.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British *(a)* 20 foot and *(b)* 40 foot shipping containers used for resupply have been reported as (i) missing and (ii) stolen in Afghanistan and Iraq in each year since 2002. [162557]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** No shipping containers have been reported as missing or stolen.

### Libyan Arab Republic: Arms Trade

**Sammy Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value of arms and related equipment exported from the UK to Libya has been over the last 10 years. [165580]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not hold information on the value of arms and related equipment exported from the UK, but can provide information on the value of licences issued for export. The Government publish detailed information on export licences issued, including the overall value and number of export licences approved for Libya and a summary of the items covered by these licences, in its Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls.

The Government's Annual Reports, published since 1997, are available from the Libraries of the House and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c =Page&cid=1007029395474.

The Government have published quarterly reports on Strategic Export Controls since January 2004 and these are also available from this website. Please note that the Annual Reports for 1997 and 1998 do not give the total value of Standard Individual Export Licences issued as this information was not collected at the time.

### Military Aircraft: Operating Costs

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the hourly operating cost including crew time is for *(a)* Nimrod MR2, *(b)* Chinook, *(c)* Apache and *(d)* Tornado GR4 aircraft. [165051]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The total cost per funded flying hour is shown in the table as follows:

| *Aircraft* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|
| Tornado GR4 | 33,000 |
| Nimrod | 30,000 |
| Chinook | 24,000 |
| Apache | 46,000 |

This includes forward and depth servicing, fuel costs, crew costs, training costs and the cost of capital charge and depreciation.

### Military Bases: Security

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of security at his Department's bases and headquarters in the UK; what steps are taken to deter unwanted intrusion; and if he will make a statement. [165652]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The state of security across the Defence estate is generally satisfactory. The Department, in common with similar large organisations, faces ever-changing threats and challenges to its security. High priority is given to security at MOD establishments, the risks posed to buildings and staff are kept under constant review to ensure that appropriate levels of security are applied through a process of risk management. For obvious reasons it is not practice to reveal MOD security measures publicly. However, I can assure the hon. Member that wherever a security incident occurs, it is speedily investigated and remedial action is taken if appropriate.

### Navy: Fisheries

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the training that officers in the Fishery Protection Squadron undertake. [166429]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** In addition to their extensive naval training, British Sea Fishery Officers attend a three week shore course and a 10 day practical sea training course specifically for the purpose. This training is primarily sponsored by the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) and is taught by both MFA (District Inspector (Training)) and Royal Naval (Fishery Protection Inspector) instructors.

### Northwood Headquarters

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role of the Northwood headquarters is in supporting *(a)* the EU Battle Group concept and *(b)* The Nordic Battle Group. [166215]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The UK permanent joint headquarters (PJHQ) at Northwood is one of five national operational headquarters (OHQ) declared available for European Union military operations. The others are at Larissa (Greece), Potsdam (Germany), Rome (Italy) and Mont Valerien (Paris). In addition, access to NATO OHQ at SHAPE, Brussels, is assured for EU military operations.

PJHQ will provide the OHQ building and technical and administrative support, including trained core staff, for the Nordic Battle Group during its time as one of the two EU battle groups on standby between January and June 2008.

### Patrol Craft: Repairs and Maintenance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance schedule of the River Class offshore patrol vessels is; and if he will make a statement. [166434]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The three River class vessels are supported under a Contractor Logistic Support contract placed with VT Group plc. Under the contract the three vessels are required to be operationally available for a total of 960 days per annum. Each vessel undergoes two maintenance periods per annum, one of nine days and one of 16 days duration. The work undertaken during these periods is a combination of contractor and ship's company tasks.

### Reserve Forces: Finance

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned funding for the *(a)* Royal Marines Reserve, *(b)* Royal Naval Reserve and *(c)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary is in the financial years (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [164551]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** These organisations do not have distinct, identifiable budgets. Costs are managed functionally rather than organisationally. But the following indicative figures are available for forecast expenditure in 2007-08:

| | | £ *million* |
|---|---|---|
| Royal Navy Reserve | Pay and allowances. | 7 |
| Royal Marines Reserve | Pay and allowances. | 3 |
| Royal Navy Reserve/Royal Marine Reserve | Utilities, rent of accommodation, transport, travel and subsistence. Excludes stores consumption and IT. | 4 |
| Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) | RFA manpower costs, training and travel and subsistence; new build, maintenance and asset depreciation/cost of capital for RFA ships. Excludes fuel, stores consumption and IT. | 350 |

Spending plans for future years are being reviewed in the current Departmental planning round.

### Tornado Aircraft

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to remove some part of the operational capabilities or lower the operational readiness of the Tornado GR4 aircraft at *(a)* RAF Lossiemouth and *(b)* RAF Marham over the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [166975]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The MOD has no plans for any changes to the Tornado GR4 force structure at present.

### Warships

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what further reductions in the numbers of *(a)* frigates and *(b)* destroyers are planned to facilitate financial savings. [164728]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* While the Defence Programme is kept under regular review, there are currently no plans to change the number of destroyers or frigates in service with the Royal Navy.

### Warships: Finance

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of *(a)* HMS Ocean, *(b)* HMS Bulwark and *(c)* HMS Illustrious when commissioned in 2007 prices. [167532]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The costs of HM Ships Ocean, Bulwark and Illustrious at the time they were commissioned, uprated to 2007-08 prices, are set out in the following table:

| *Vessel* | *Date of commissioning* | *Price uprated to 2007-08 prices (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| HMS Ocean | 1999 | 289.2 |
| HMS Bulwark | 2004 | 279.7 |
| HMS Illustrious | 1982 | 553.9 |

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Board Secretariat

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what functions are performed by *(a)* the Secretariat to the Olympic Board and *(b)* the Government Olympic Executive; how many people work in each body; and how much has been spent on staffing each body. [163719]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The Secretariat to the Olympic Board provides support to the board through arranging meetings and preparing agendas, papers and minutes. As of 12 November 2007, the Secretariat consists of two full-time equivalent staff. The current Secretariat, based within the Government Olympic Executive (GOE), took over this function from the Olympic Programme Support Unit in September 2007. The cost of the current Secretariat for September and October 2007 was £7,109.48.

The Government Olympic Executive consists of 61.3 full-time equivalent staff. GOE's main function is to provide an intelligent client for the Olympic programme on behalf of Government. GOE currently divides its staff broadly across four main functions:

(1) Oversight of and support to the key delivery bodies (ODA and LOCOG);

(2) Legacy planning;

(3) Co-ordination of other functions including parliamentary business, research, planning and public engagement;

(4) Detailed oversight of financial operations.

The GOE staff cost for October 2007 was £629,691 and staff costs to date in this financial year are £2,168,158.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library a copy of the Olympic Delivery Authority's register of gifts and hospitality. [165486]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Olympic Delivery Authority intends to publish its register of gifts and hospitality early next year.

### Olympic Games 2012: Mayor of London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she plans to revise further the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the Mayor of London. [165485]

**Tessa Jowell:** There is no current reason to further revise the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the Mayor of London.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials from his Department attended the cross-Government working group on anti-Semitism on 15 November, broken down by grade; and if he will make a statement. [167395]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhandra) on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1012W.

### Cricket: Floods

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will provide an update on assistance provided to cricket clubs affected by flood damage. [168214]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** To date, two applications have been made to Sport England for National Sports Foundation funding for cricket clubs affected by flood damage. Additional information was requested and has now been received from the English and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). These applications can now be considered for funding.

### Cultural Heritage: Marketing

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what agreements exist between English Heritage, the national museums and galleries and VisitBritain for the joint-marketing of English Heritage properties and the national museums and galleries to *(a)* inbound and *(b)* domestic visitors. [166157]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* VisitBritain works closely with English Heritage, and the National Museums and Galleries, on the marketing of Britain's historic and cultural assets to both inbound and domestic visitors.

Although there are no formal marketing agreements VisitBritain hosts free contributions on its websites from English Heritage and the National Museums and Galleries. VisitBritain and English Heritage are partners in the Great British Heritage Pass which is marketed by VisitBritain to inbound visitors.

Working in partnership as the Heritage in Britain consortium, English Heritage, VisitBritain, and National Museums and Galleries share research and best practice in the marketing and promotion of Britain's attractions both domestically and overseas.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what entertainment or hospitality members of his Department's management board received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164749]

**Margaret Hodge:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

### Departmental Orders and Regulations

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many regulations his Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked in the last 12 months. [167081]

**Margaret Hodge:** Over the last year, DCMS made 61 statutory instruments and revoked 44. The majority of these new and revoked instruments (43 and 31 respectively) relate to the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 which came fully into effect on 1 September 2007 and which simplified and modernised previous gambling legislation.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what opinion polls his Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164953]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department has conducted one public opinion poll since 27 June 2007. The firm employed was BMRB and the purpose was to gauge national public opinion about the Olympic legacy promises. The cost was £65,629.

The Department has conducted various opinion polls of staff since 27 June 2007 which are listed:

1. Two staff workshops with a range of DCMS staff to explore responses to the recent DCMS Capability Review. These were managed by Campbell Keegan and cost £12,250.

2. A staff opinion survey. The firm employed was ORC International and the purpose was to find out staff views on working at DCMS. The cost was £20,425.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167346]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department has had a zero spend on managing its corporate identity in the last 12-month period.

With regard to its agencies, this figure could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Standards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164875]

**Margaret Hodge:** DCMS has not yet set a date for publication of its Autumn Performance Report for 2007, however it is our intention to publish this before the House rises for the Christmas recess.

### Digital Broadcasting: Radio

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that the Ofcom tendering process procures a single digital radio broadcasting contract to provide coverage for the whole of Gloucestershire. [167256]

**James Purnell:** The planning, licensing and regulation of radio (except BBC) is a matter for the independent regulator Ofcom.

### Heritage

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on progress in developing a UK national heritage science strategy. [163085]

**James Purnell:** In consultation with the sector, English Heritage is setting up a steering group which will collect and collate information and make proposals for a UK national heritage science strategy.

## Museums and Galleries

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* UK residents and *(b)* tourists from overseas visited (i) museums and (ii) art galleries in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [167264]

**Margaret Hodge:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The number of visits by UK residents to (i) museums and (ii) art galleries sponsored by DCMS are set out in the following table.

| | *(i) Museums* | *Million (ii) Art galleries* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 7.70 | 5.32 |
| 1999-2000 | 8.49 | 4.99 |
| 2000-01 | 11.56 | 7.99 |
| 2001-02 | 13.45 | 7.66 |
| 2002-03 | 16.56 | 7.47 |
| 2003-04 | 15.56 | 7.68 |
| 2004-05 | 16.60 | 8.61 |
| 2005-06 | 15.52 | 7.55 |
| 2006-07 | 16.04 | 8.76 |

*(b)* The number of visits by overseas tourists to (i) museums and (ii) art galleries sponsored by DCMS are set out in the following table.

| | *(i) Museums* | *Million (ii) Art galleries* |
|---|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 2.54 | 3.51 |
| 1999-2000 | 2.56 | 3.49 |
| 2000-01 | 4.61 | 4.74 |
| 2001-02 | 4.93 | 4.21 |
| 2002-03 | 5.31 | 4.28 |
| 2003-04 | 7.19 | 4.61 |
| 2004-05 | 6.82 | 4.06 |
| 2005-06 | 6.57 | 4.35 |
| 2006-07 | 8.91 | 5.34 |

A breakdown of visits by UK and overseas residents to DCMS sponsored museums and art galleries is not available for 1997-98, as those data were not collected prior to 1998-99.

Figures on the number of UK residents and overseas tourists that visit all museums and art galleries in the UK each year is not available.

## Museums and Galleries: North East Region

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has for funding of Renaissance in the Regions in the North East; and if he will make a statement. [166519]

**Margaret Hodge:** Investment in the programme as a whole will rise from £45 million this year to £48.7 million in 2010-11. The specific allocation for museums in the North East will be decided by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

## National Lottery: Sports

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was distributed to sport from the National Lottery, excluding investment income, in each year since 1994-95. [165802]

**James Purnell** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The following table shows the total operator proceeds raised for and held in the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) for the sport lottery distributors, for each complete financial year. The figures are taken from the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) annual accounts, except for the figure for 2006-07 which is a provisional figure subject to audit. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

| *Financial year* | *Total operator proceeds[1] (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 58,100,000 |
| 1995-96 | 293,376,000 |
| 1996-97 | 289,172,000 |
| 1997-98 | 321,955,000 |
| 1998-99 | 253,244,000 |
| 1999-2000 | 244,729,000 |
| 2000-01 | 257,987,000 |
| 2001-02 | 276,022,000 |
| 2002-03 | 229,461,000 |
| 2003-04 | 216,474,000 |
| 2004-05 | 226,077,000 |
| 2005-06 | 230,415,000 |
| 2006-07 | 200,930,000 |

[1] Rounded to nearest thousand

## National Security

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, when he expects the Royal Television Society and Society of Newspaper Editors to hold the conference and regional debates on how to ensure accurate and balanced reporting of issues related to terrorism in the media, announced by the Prime Minister; what contribution his Department expects to make to the costs of these debates; and if he will make a statement. [168350]

**James Purnell:** The timing and format of the conference and debates are a matter for the organisations concerned. The Government have not received any request for a contribution towards the costs but would be happy to consider what support might be necessary to make them successful.

## Opinion Leader Research

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165260]

**Margaret Hodge:** There have been no contracts awarded by my Department to Opinion Leader Research since 1997.

### Public Service Broadcasting

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the obligations of the public service broadcasters in respect of television text services. [165288]

**James Purnell:** Teletext is the commercial public service broadcaster which is required under the terms of its licence to make a text service available, currently in both analogue and digital formats. The holder of the Channel 3 licence, Channel 4 and the Welsh Authority are currently required to grant access to the analogue public teletext provider to the facilities reasonably required for the purposes of the provision of that service. Under its Charter and Agreement, the BBC has currently undertaken to provide analogue Ceefax. The analogue Teletext service and BBC Ceefax will not be available after digital switchover but I understand that digital Teletext and a digital BBC text service will be.

### Royal Opera House: Finance

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant aid the Arts Council for England has provided to *(a)* the Royal Opera House and *(b)* English National Opera in each of the last five years. [166963]

**Margaret Hodge:** The grant in aid figures are as follows:

*£ million*

| | *Royal Opera House* | *English National Opera* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 21,754,450 | 15,000,000 |
| 2004-05 | 23,110,841 | 16,078,500 |
| 2005-06 | 24,866,154 | 16,556,220 |
| 2006-07 | 25,550,000 | 17,011,516 |
| 2007-08 | 26,252,600 | 17,479,300 |

### Somerset House

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proposals he has for modification of the head lease of Somerset house to permit a wider range of potential uses. [166360]

**Margaret Hodge:** In line with its mission to open up Somerset house to the public and complete the restoration of the 18th century buildings round the courtyard, Somerset house Trust has invited bids from potential partners to re-develop the adjoining new wing. The Trust is currently analysing the options to achieve the best solution and will then put proposals to Ministers for them to consider.

### Sports: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department allocated to sport in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997. [165917]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not fund sport directly. In this instance funding has been provided by Sport England to:

*(a) Peterborough constituency*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 152,889 |
| 1999 | 9,758 |
| 2000 | 16,916 |
| 2001 | 25,676 |
| 2002 | 16,222 |
| 2003 | 64,484 |
| 2004 | 116,000 |
| 2005 | 3,000 |
| Total | 404,945 |

*(b) Peterborough city council*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 442,689 |
| 1999 | 54,328 |
| 2000 | 21,915 |
| 2001 | 32,326 |
| 2002 | 25,378 |
| 2003 | 64,484 |
| 2004 | 116,000 |
| 2005 | 3,000 |
| 2006 | 30,000 |
| Total | 790,120 |

### Travel Information

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourist information centres there were in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* 2007; and if he will make a statement. [166572]

**Margaret Hodge:** There are currently around 500 Tourist Information Centres (TICs) in England. Historical information about TIC numbers is not held centrally.

The vast majority of TICs are managed by local authorities, as part of their discretionary support for the sector. Decisions about provision will continue to be made at a local level.

## TRANSPORT

### Airports: Public Participation

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultations on airport development are planned; and what the expected date of each consultation is. [167912]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department is currently consulting on proposals to add capacity at Heathrow airport. This meets a commitment in the 2004 'Future of Air Transport' White Paper, which was itself developed following wide consultation. The Department has no plans to consult on specific development proposals at other airports though individual airport operators will need to consult in accordance with planning requirements as and when they bring forward their proposals.

### Aviation: Security

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the outcomes were of discussions she has had with the aviation industry on ensuring that the UK's aviation security regime is properly enforced without causing unnecessary inconvenience to passengers; and how her Department is implementing these outcomes; [163236]

(2) what consultations she has had with the *(a)* aviation and *(b)* security industries on the future of the one item of hand luggage rule; and if she will make a statement; [163237]

(3) what her plans are relating to the one item of hand luggage rule. [163238]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Ministers meet regularly with members of the industry, both bilaterally and through relevant committees.

The Secretary of State discussed cabin baggage restrictions with senior aviation industry representatives at the Aviation Security Summit and also with individual airline and airport operators.

My right hon. Friend's written statement of 14 November explained that airports may permit passengers to carry more than one item of hand luggage from 7 January 2008, provided they have been able to show that they have in place the screening capacity needed to handle the additional bags without any adverse impact on the standard of security achieved. It will be for each airport to bring its plans to the Department for approval, as and when it is ready to do so.

### Cars: Leader of the Opposition

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what car has been made available to the Leader of the Opposition; how many hours a day a chauffeur is available to him; what the monthly cost of this provision was in each of the last 12 months; and how much of that cost was accounted for by *(a)* the running costs of the vehicle, *(b)* the costs of the chauffeur and *(c)* all other costs. [162488]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) provides a driver to the Leader of the Official Opposition to support him in carrying out his official duties. The costs associated with use for non-official duties are met by the Conservative Party. The hours worked by the driver are determined by the Leader of the Opposition's day-to-day requirements. The current average monthly contracted cost for providing this service is £4,027 (excl. VAT).

The GCDA does not currently provide a car to the Leader of the Official Opposition. His car is provided [and paid for] by the Conservative Party. A contribution is provided by Government towards the cost of fuel.

### Departmental Internet

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many new websites have been published by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its executive agencies and their subsidiaries since her Department announced its website rationalisation process; [163302]

(2) which websites are run by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies, listed by the order in which they went live; [163303]

(3) which websites run by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its executive agencies are live but are no longer updated. [163305]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The website rationalisation exercise, which forms part of the Government's Transformational Government agenda, proposed a moratorium on the creation of new websites. The Department's policy is to adhere to that position.

There are currently 80 sites across the Department, its executive agencies and subsidiaries, 74 of which have been identified for closure. To clarify the exact date on which each of these sites was published and to clarify whether information has been published recently on each of these sites, would require dialogue with each website owner and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Following is a full list of the Department's and executive agencies' websites.

| *Department/executive agency* | *Website* |
|---|---|
| About Transport Direct[1] | www.transportdirect.gov.uk |
| A595[1] | www.a595.co.uk |
| Arrive Alive[1] | www.arrivealive.info |
| Bus Priority Resource Pack[1] | www.buspriority.org |
| Car Fuel Data[1] | www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk |
| Cyclesense[1] | www.cyclesense.net |
| Cyclesmart[1] | www.cyclesmart.org |
| Dartford River Crossing[1] | www.dartfordrivercrossing.co.uk |
| Department for Transport | www.dft.gov.uk |
| DfT Matrix[1] | www.dft-matrix.net |
| DPTAC e-community[1] | www.ecommunities.dft.gov.uk |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency[1] | www.dvla.gov.uk |
| Driving Standards Agency[1] | www.dsa.gov.uk |
| Drugdrive[1] | www.drugdrive.com |
| DSA IRDT Instructor Services[1] | https://pt.dsa.gov.uk/DSAWeb/ |
| DSA Practical test booking[1] | https://pt.dsa.gov.uk |

| *Department/executive agency* | *Website* |
|---|---|
| DSA Theory test bookings[1] | www.pearsonvue.com |
| DVLA Online[1] | https://www.dvlaonline.gov.uk/Homepage.asp |
| DVLA Personalised Registrations[1] | www.dvlaregistrations.co.uk |
| DVLA.gov.uk/vehiclelicences[1] | www.vehiclelicence.gov.uk |
| DVO Group (Driver, Vehicle and Operator Group) e-Community[1] | www.ecommunities.dft.gov.uk |
| Electronic Service Delivery of Abnormal Loads (ESDAL)[1] | www.esdal.com |
| e-Tendering[1] | https://www.prep.dft.bravosolution.com/web/login.shtml |
| Freight best practice[1] | www.freightbestpractice.org.uk |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency[1] | www.gcda.gov.uk |
| HA Car Share[1] | www.hacarshare.com |
| HA Environmental Management System (HAEMS)[1] | No longer planned |
| HA EU Watch[1] | www. Haeuwatchits.info |
| HA Guide to freight[1] | www.haguidetofreight.co.uk |
| Halogen[1] | www.halogenonline.co.uk |
| Halogen demo[1] | www.foyer-display.co.uk |
| Halogen demo[1] | www.trafficxml.org.uk |
| Heavy Goods Vehicle[1] | www.heavygoodvehicle.com |
| Hedgehogs | www.hedgehogs.gov.uk |
| Highway Code[1] | www.highwaycode.gov.uk |
| Highways Agency[1] | www.highways.gov.uk |
| ITS Radar[1] | www.itsradar.co.uk |
| M25 sphere[1] | www.mouchelparkman.com/area5/v3/rwis/area5.nsf/httpPublicMap?ReadForm |
| Maritime and Coastguard Agency | www.mcga.gov.uk |
| MOT info[1] | www.motinfo.gov.uk |
| Non-executive director job ad[1] | www.tribalresourcing.com/highways-ned/ |
| ODS Databank[1] | www.odsdatabank.com |
| PartnerNET[1] | www.ha-partnernet.org.uk |
| Pass Plus[1] | www.passplus.org.uk |
| Payroll Services e-Community[1] | www.ecommunities.dft.gov.uk |
| Primary School Teaching Resource[1] | www.databases.dft.gov.uk/primary |
| Property review group (BRBR)[1] | www.railprg.org.uk/ |
| Realtime Traffic Info[1] | www.realtime-traffic.info |
| Research Compendium[1] | www.ha-research.gov.uk |
| Research Database[1] | http://www.rmd.dft.gov.uk/ |
| Road Safety Resources database[1] | www.databases.dft.gov.uk/roadsafety |
| School Lesson Plans Database[1] | www.databases.dft.gov.uk/lessonplans |
| Secondary School Teaching Resource[1] | www.databases.dft.gov.uk/secondary |
| Standards for Highways[1] | www.standardsforhighways.co.uk |
| Sustainable School Travel Database[1] | www.databases.dft.gov.uk/schools/ |
| The Academy[1] | www.themotorcycleacademy.co.uk |
| The Red Ensign Group | www.redensigngroup.org |
| Theory Tests[1] | www.theory-tests.co.uk |
| THINK![1] | www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk |
| THINK! Seat belts[1] | www.thinkseatbelts.com |
| Traffic England[1] | www.trafficengland.com |
| Traffic Map[1] | www.trafficmap.co.uk |
| Traffic Officer Recruitment[1] | www.betterhighways.co.uk |
| Traffic radio[1] | www.trafficradio.org.uk |
| Transec (Transport Security) e-Community[1] | www.ecommunities.dft.gov.uk |
| Transport Direct | www.transportdirect.info |
| Transport Office[1] | www.transportoffice.gov.uk |
| TSS Plans Registry[1] | www.tssplansregistry.co.uk |
| UK Search and Rescue[1] | www.uk-sar.org.uk |
| UK Ship Register | www.ukshipregister.co.uk |
| UTMC: Urban Traffic Management and control[1] | www.utmc.gov.uk |
| VCA | www.vca.gov.uk |
| Vehicle Licensing Online[1] | www.dvla.gov.uk/vehiclelicence |
| Vehicle Licensing Online (Direct.gov.uk/taxdisc)[1] | www.direct.gov.uk/taxdisc |
| Video Information Highway[1] | www.vihengland.org |
| VOSA Corporate site[1] | www.vosa.gov.uk |
| Water Freight Grant Environmental Benefit Calculator[1] | www.dft-eb-calculator.co.uk |

| Department/executive agency | Website |
|---|---|
| WebDAS (Departures from Standards)—Planned[1] | Not yet launched |
| WebTAG: Transport Analysis Guidance[1] | www.webtag.org.uk |
| What if? [1] | www.ask-what-if.com |

[1] Either closed or identified for closure

### Departmental Manpower

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in her Department in 2007. [165107]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department does not routinely collate age related data on job applicants and interviewees and this can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows provisional data on people given temporary and permanent jobs in the Department in 2007. These figures exclude DSA and VGA, which can only collate the data as requested at a disproportionate cost.

| Age Group | Temporary | Permanent |
|---|---|---|
| 30 to 39 | 76 | 234 |
| 40 to 49 | 57 | 188 |
| 50 to 59 | 57 | 120 |
| 60 to 69 | 8 | 10 |
| Total | 198 | 552 |

### East Coast Railway Line

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on the recent competition for early refranchising of the East Coast main line. [163477]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The re-franchising has been completed at no cost to Government. Costs incurred have been met by Sea Containers Ltd.

### Eurostar

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost of maintaining the Eurostar platforms at Waterloo station per month. [165290]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Eurostar are de-commissioning the station and leaving it in a suitable condition to transfer to the department at the end of March 2008. This work involves taking out all the equipment needed to operate an "international" station—e.g. customs control arrangements—which are now redundant. The cost of this de-commissioning work is between £50,000 and £100,000.

There is also an ongoing need to maintain the wider facilities at Waterloo International in a safe and secure condition. The cost of doing this is likely to be in the region of £500,000 per annum. Such costs would need to be incurred irrespective of the future use of the station.

### Lorries: Speed Limits

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has made an assessment of the merits of requiring speed limiters to be fitted to non-UK registered heavy goods vehicles. [168007]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** It is already a requirement under the provisions of directive 92/6/EEC as amended by directive 2002/85/EC for heavy goods vehicles registered in any EU member state to be fitted with a speed limiter.

### Motor Vehicles: Crime

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of her full-time equivalent officials have worked on proposals to combat vehicle crime over the last six months. [164697]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The lead responsibility for combating vehicle crime rests with the Home Office. Many of the activities of DFT and its agencies also help to tackle vehicle crime. Among the key achievements in 2006-07 were: the introduction of theft-resistant number plates to help combat car cloning and car ID theft; and an increase in wheel clamping activities to tackle vehicle excise duty evasion. It is not possible to quantify this in terms of staff numbers.

### Railway Track

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has authorised the sale of any land containing disused rail lines in the last six months. [165291]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The disposal of non-operational property owned by BRB (Residuary) Ltd. (BRBR) is governed by guidance issued to the company on 26 July 2007 which I outlined in my statement to Parliament on that date. Since 1 April 2007, BRBR have disposed of 13 properties that contain disused rail lines. The disposal of railway property owned by Network Rail is undertaken in accordance with the conditions of their network license. Compliance with these conditions are monitored and enforced by the Office of Rail Regulation.

### Railways: Antisocial Behaviour

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many additional British Transport Police staff she expects to be required to facilitate the recently announced initiative on anti-social behaviour on trains. [166737]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police,
25 Camden Road,
London NW1 9LN,
e-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk

### Railways: Cheshire

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has to re-open the Woodhead Tunnel for rail use; and if she will make a statement. [165092]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The Woodhead tunnels are owned by National Grid.

The Department has no plans to reopen the Woodhead tunnel for rail use.

### Railways: East Coast Main Line

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the Route Utilisation Strategy for the East Coast Main Line to be published. [167880]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Route Utilisation Strategies are the responsibility of Network Rail who tell me that publication of the final Route Utilisation Strategy document for the East Coast Main Line is likely to be in February 2008.

### Railways: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* Arriva about the frequency of its direct services between Cheltenham and the North West; and if she will make a statement. [167584]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Ministers have had no recent discussions with either Network Rail or Arriva about the frequency of direct services between Cheltenham and the North West.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* train operating companies about the frequency of services to and from Ashchurch; and if she will make a statement. [167585]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Ministers have had no recent discussions with either Network Rail or train operating companies about the frequency of train services to and from Ashchurch for Tewkesbury station.

### Railways: Kemble

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when a decision is expected on the re-doubling of the track between Kemble and Swindon. [168067]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I understand Network Rail has consulted rail industry parties on possible changes to the Swindon to Kemble line. However, this is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

### Railways: Milton Keynes

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 462W, which trains going from *(a)* Milton Keynes to London during morning peak hours and *(b)* London to Milton Keynes during evening peak hours represent an increase in peak services calling at Milton Keynes. [167964]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** In the morning peak, the increase in trains towards London will be provided by Virgin West Coast. Before 7.15 am, three trains currently stop to pick up and set down passengers. From December 2008, we propose that this increases to six. In the evening peak, the number of northbound Virgin services calling would double, but as is the case now they will only pick up and not set down passengers at Milton Keynes.

London Midland services will remain at the same frequency as today. However, a new service to Clapham Junction via Kensington Olympia will operate every hour.

### Rapid Transit Systems

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of her officials are working on proposals relating to light rail. [164627]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department is currently working on a number of proposals from local authorities that relate to light rail. These proposals are in various stages of development from the initial submission of a business case, to those which are applying for statutory powers to operate and others which are close to finalising their bids for full funding approval.

As these schemes are complex the Department has to draw upon a number of disciplines for the provision of legal and financial advice, economic appraisal of the schemes, as well as the assessment of project delivery.

Currently we estimate that 28 departmental officials are involved in this. However, given the nature of this work this will fluctuate.

### Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consult the UK biofuels industry on the possible effects of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO); and if she will publish a timetable for introduction of the RTFO. [168166]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The RTFO is due to come into effect in April 2008, as set out in the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 (SI 2007 No. 3072) which completed its passage through Parliament in October 2007. The Government have consulted extensively on the detail and likely impacts of the scheme. Copies of the relevant consultation documents are available in the House Libraries or via the Department for Transport's website:

www.dft.gov.uk

## Roads: Construction

**Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the letter dated 1 December 1982 from her Department to Northumberland County Council headed Notes for the guidance of engineers employed in connection with trunk road schemes, and the attached notes. [167661]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I am placing copies of the letter and the notes in the Libraries of the House.

## Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list each motorway and trunk road building project since 1997; and what the *(a)* tender cost and *(b)* outturn cost was in each case. [163225]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The following table lists works tender/target cost against works outturn cost for each publicly funded major project (project costing over £5 million) that has been completed from June 2006 to date. Information for projects completing in the period 1997 to June 2006 can be found in a previously answered parliamentary question (UIN 62182) of 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 858-59W.

*2006-07 completions*

| *Scheme* | *Works tender/target cost* | *£ million Works tender estimated out-turn cost* |
|---|---|---|
| M60 J5-8 Widening | 106 | 129 |
| M5 J19-20 Southbound Climbing Lane (Naish Hill) | 9 | 8 |
| M5 J19-20 Northbound Climbing Lane (Tickenham Hill) | 12 | 10 |
| A421 Great Barford Bypass | 36 | 40 |
| A63 Melton Grade Separated Junction | 14 | 31 |
| A500 City Road and Stoke Junction Improvement | 31 | 57 |
| A30/A382 Merrymeet Junction | 8 | 8 |
| A419 Commonhead Junction | 13 | 13 |
| A11 Attleborough Bypass | 22 | 22 |
| M40/A404 Handy Cross Junction Improvement | 10 | 13 |

*2007 (year to 31 October) completions*

| *Scheme* | *Works tender/target cost* | *£ million Works tender estimated outturn cost* |
|---|---|---|
| A428 Caxton Common to Hardwick Improvement | 39 | 39 |
| A30 Bodmin Indian Queens Improvement | 63 | 62 |
| A66 Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner Improvement | 7 | 11 |
| A66 Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank Improvement | 7 | 9 |
| A66 Temple Sowerby Bypass and Imp at Winderwath | 30 | 28 |

Items not procured through the main works contractor and therefore not included in the tender price are excluded from the figures shown. This normally includes the costs of land acquisition and compensation, non recoverable VAT and preparation and supervision costs. It should also be noted that while the out-turn figures shown include an allowance for all works costs final accounts have not yet been settled as they are still within the maintenance/defect period.

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which road projects will receive increased funding as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007; which new road projects will be undertaken as a result of the provisions of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007; and what the effects of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 will be on the Transport Innovation Fund. [163234]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** A detailed breakdown of programme budgets within the Department for Transport covering the three years of the CSR has not yet been made; an announcement will be made in due course.

## Roads: Wales

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which trunk roads in Wales straddle the border. [168554]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Trunk roads in Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government, but the following trunk roads cross from England into Wales:

| *County* | *Name of trunk road* |
|---|---|
| Cheshire | A55, A550, A483 |
| Shropshire | A5, A458, A483 |
| Herefordshire | A40, A465 |

In addition, the M48 Severn Bridge and the M4 Second Severn Crossing both cross the English/Welsh border.

### Waterloo Station

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the five platforms vacated by Eurostar at Waterloo station will be used for trains travelling to and from the South West. [166757]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* Ownership of Waterloo International transfers to the Department at the end of March 2008 following Eurostar's decommissioning of the facility as an international station. The Department is currently working closely with Network Rail and Stagecoach South West Trains (the train operating company) to finalise the design and costs associated with the partial conversion of Waterloo International potentially to accommodate some domestic passenger services. Works on site are expected to commence soon after the station transfers to the Department and will take several months to complete. Services are then expected to operate into and out of platform 20 of Waterloo International from the start of the timetable change date in December 2008.

Options for the medium to long-term use of all five platforms are being assessed by the Department and Network Rail as part of a wider strategy for the upgrade of Waterloo station.

### West Coast Railway Line: Rolling Stock

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the new Virgin Pendolino carriages to be in use on the West Coast main line. [166729]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Negotiations continue with Network Rail, Virgin Trains and Alstom to determine the optimal way of providing further increased capacity on the west coast main line. I hope to be able to make a further announcement during the early part of the new year.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers are awaiting payment under the single payment scheme for the *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007 payments in (i) Ribble Valley and (ii) Lancashire. [166121]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* There are currently 11 outstanding cases for SPS 2005.

For SPS 2006 there are 352 claims where processing is not yet complete. 179 of these have received partial payments and RPA is continuing to process these claims to provide top up payments where applicable. Payment is yet to be made on the other 173. Many of these are complex cases involving probate, business partnership changes and domestic issues. It is likely that work on these outstanding claims will reveal some may not be eligible for payment. Where it is confirmed that payments are due, these will be made as soon as possible.

The payment window for SPS 2007 opens on 1 December 2007.

Detailed analysis of all the payments made under the SPS is not yet available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value is of outstanding single payment scheme payments for the *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007 payments in (i) Ribble Valley and (ii) Lancashire. [166122]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The value of the outstanding single payment scheme payments for 2005 is £74,566, for 2006 it is approximately £1.7 million once the processing of these claims is complete. These figures exclude any corrections arising from the review of SPS Entitlements Statements currently taking place.

The payment window for SPS 2007 opens on 1 December 2007.

Detailed analysis of all the payments made under the SPS is not yet available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers are awaiting payment under the single payment scheme for *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007 payments. [165383]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There are currently 11 outstanding cases for SPS 2005.

For SPS 2006 there are 352 claims where processing is not yet complete. 179 of these have received partial payments and RPA is continuing to process these claims to provide top up payments where applicable. Payment is yet to be made on the other 173. Many of these are complex cases involving probate, business partnership changes and domestic issues. It is likely that work on these outstanding claims will reveal some may not be eligible for payment. Where it is confirmed that payments are due, these will be made as soon as possible.

The payment window for SPS 2007 opens on 1 December 2007.

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value is of outstanding single payment scheme payments in relation to *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [165384]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The value of the outstanding single payment scheme payments for 2005 is £74,566 and for 2006 it is approximately £1.7 million once the processing of these claims is complete. These figures exclude any corrections arising from the review of SPS entitlements statements currently taking place.

The payment window for SPS 2007 opens on 1 December 2007.

## Animal Feed: Prices

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely average price of feed for the livestock sector in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [165506]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The price of feed for the livestock sector is largely determined by world prices for cereals, oilseeds and other commodities. Recent price increases have been driven by a combination of factors, some of which are shorter term and introduce volatility into the market (e.g. adverse weather leading to lower production) and others of which are longer term trends (e.g. increasing use of cereals and oilseeds for food, feed and fuel uses). Current high prices, combined with policy changes such as the removal of the set-aside requirement for the 2008 harvest, will undoubtedly stimulate production and lead to a moderation of prices, but it may take a number of years to rebuild stocks to levels that markets are comfortable with. A fuller assessment can be found in our recent report "Implications of rising agricultural commodity prices" which can be found at:

http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/publications/monthly%20brief/Annex%201%20Food%20and%20farming%20brief%20-%20impact%20of%20high%20commodity%20prices.pdf

Projecting future commodity prices and hence the price of feed for the livestock sector is uncertain. A number of international organisations produce projections, including the OECD and the EU Commission, the latest of which are given as follows. However, it should be noted that these were compiled before the recent price increases.

OECD/FAO agricultural outlook 2007 to 2016

http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/6/10/38893266.pdf

EU Commission Prospects for agricultural markets and income 2007-2014

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/caprep/prospects2007a/index_en.htm

## Animal Health

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what representations his Department has received from local councils on the funding of their budgets for animal health; [166483]

(2) what changes are planned to the level of funding of local authority health teams; and if he will make a statement; [166484]

(3) what funding his Department has provided to local authority animal health teams in each year since 2001; and what the projected expenditure is for 2007-08. [166485]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* I have received a number of representations from local authorities about the direct funding available from DEFRA to supplement the resources available to them under the Revenue Support Grant for work on animal health and welfare. The funding paid to local authorities under these arrangements, which started in 2002-03, has been as follows:

| | *Expenditure (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 3.6 |
| 2003-04 | 7 |
| 2004-05 | 7.6 |
| 2005-06 | 8.2 |
| 2006-07 | 8.7 |

Local authorities submit bids annually to their local Divisional veterinary managers (DVMs), who are asked to certify that the proposed expenditure is eligible for funding. The bids are sent forward to a central point in DEFRA for authorisation.

For 2007-08, DEFRA received bids worth £9.77 million in total. This compares with an available budget of £8.5 million, which reflects a degree of underspending in previous years. DEFRA has issued allocations within the limits of the funding available. Authorities claiming up to £11,000 will receive the full amount of their bids. Other authorities have been told that their bids will be reduced by up to 12 per cent.

DEFRA is working with the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) to improve the framework agreement governing this work and to ensure that the limited resources available are used to best effect.

## Animal Welfare: Codes of Practice

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on what basis individuals were invited to be members of the working group drawing up the Code of Practice resulting from the Animal Welfare Act 2006; [165429]

(2) which organisation each member of the working group drawing up the Code of Practice resulting from the Animal Welfare Act 2006 represents; [165430]

(3) which bodies or individuals have been commissioned to provide research to assist the Working Group drawing up the code of practice resulting from the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [165857]

**Jonathan Shaw:** During the passage of the Animal Welfare Bill, an undertaking was given to produce three codes of practice on companion animals (dogs, cats and primates) and one on the breeding and rearing of game birds. Working groups on all four subjects are now well established.

The hon. Member does not identify which code of practice he is referring to, but those invited on to the working groups have a particular interest or expertise on the subject of the code. They represent relevant interest groups including welfare, specialists in a particular field (such as dog or cat behaviour), industry (where there are implications for that sector) and specialist private interest groups. The meetings are chaired by a DEFRA official.

It is essential that those involved with drawing up codes of practice are able to work constructively with others who may hold differing views.

Only one organisation, The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (formerly The Game Conservancy Trust) has been commissioned by DEFRA to undertake research. The research is in relation to game birds and is studying the effects of the application of bits and spectacles.

The results of this work are expected early in 2008 and will assist debate on the use of bits and spectacles as management tools for aggression reduction in game birds.

### Avian Influenza: Suffolk

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records he has of imports of *(a)* live birds and *(b)* poultry meat from (i) the Czech Republic and (ii) Germany to the area now covered by the avian influenza protection and surveillance zones within the last six weeks; and if he will make a statement. [165922]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Figures from the EU-wide computer system used to record imports of animals and their products, known as TRACES, show that no live birds were imported within the last six weeks from Germany or the Czech Republic to the area now covered by the avian influenza protection and surveillance zones.

TRACES does not record intra-EU movements of meat and there are currently no records for poultrymeat movements for this period.

A full epidemiological investigation is under way and all avenues into the origin of the outbreak of avian influenza near Diss are being investigated.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the biosecurity arrangements in place at Redgrave Park Farm; and if he will make a statement. [165923]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Following the first report of a suspected disease outbreak at Redgrave Park Farm on 11 November, Animal Health staff made an assessment of biosecurity at these premises for disease control purposes, to ensure that all necessary biosecurity control measures were in place. Part of the ongoing epidemiological investigation is to ascertain links between premises in the area and assess the risk of possible transmission of disease. Such work routinely includes the movement of vehicles, people and commodities. It is too early to comment further at this stage. The results of the epidemiological investigation will be published in due course.

### Beaches: EU Law

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of bathing waters which will be classified as *(a)* poor, *(b)* sufficient, *(c)* good and *(d)* excellent by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [166741]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment Agency has used its bathing water quality monitoring data from 2003 to 2006 to assess the compliance rate that might be expected in England under the revised Bathing Water Directive (see following table). These predictions are made on the assumption that no further action is taken to improve bathing water quality between now and when the first classifications under the revised Bathing Water Directive are expected to be made at the end of the 2015 bathing season. However, measures will continue to be taken in the catchments of some bathing waters to ensure they comply with the requirements of both the current and revised Bathing Water Directives.

The following table shows the percentage of bathing waters expected to be classified as *(a)* poor, *(b)* sufficient, *(c)* good and *(d)* excellent by 2015.

| *Classification* | *Percentage of bathing waters* |
|---|---|
| Excellent | 52 |
| Good | 27 |
| Sufficient | 13 |
| Poor | 08 |
| Total | 100 |

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to business of implementing Directive 2006/7/EC on the management of bathing water quality to *(a)* sufficient, *(b)* good and *(c)* excellent status; and if he will make a statement. [166742]

**Mr. Woolas:** DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government have recently launched a public consultation, including a partial impact assessment which sets out the costs associated with the implementation of the revised Bathing Water Directive (rBWD) in England and Wales. The Government are seeking views on three possible implementation scenarios. Scenarios 1A and 1B simply aim to meet the minimum requirements of the rBWD, with all bathing waters achieving at least the 'sufficient' classification by 2015 (Scenario 1B makes use of a prediction and discounting system) and Scenario 2 explores the costs of going beyond the minimum rBWD requirements by aiming to increase the number of 'excellent' bathing waters in England and Wales. The estimated cost to business (e.g. water companies, farmers and other parties) associated with each scenario is as follows:

| | *Cost (£ million)* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Scenario* | *Annual* | *Total (PV) (25 years)* |
| 1A | 6.8-10 | 107-171 |
| 1B | 4.3-6.9 | 65-121 |
| 2 | [1]11.6-17.6 | [1]206-380 |

[1] Includes scenario 1A costs

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which bathing waters he expects to be exempt from the requirement to achieve sufficient status by 2015 under the procedure in Article 5(4) of Directive 2006/7/EC; and if he will make a statement. [166743]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Government are not proposing to exempt any designated bathing waters from meeting the 'sufficient' classification under the revised Bathing Water Directive (rBWD), since they expect that all bathing waters will achieve the 'sufficient' classification by the end of the 2015 bathing season (following the introduction of measures to improve water quality in the catchments of bathing waters currently predicted to be classified as

'poor'). The Government would only consider using the Article 5(4) provision to temporarily classify a bathing water as 'poor' and still remain in compliance with the rBWD if unforeseen circumstances arise near to 2015.

### Beef: Imports

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* volume and *(b)* value of beef imported from Brazil was in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by state of origin. [167167]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table shows the value and volume of imports of beef and beef products from Brazil to the United Kingdom from 2006 to September 2007. It is not possible to break these figures down by state of origin.

*UK imports of beef from Brazil, 2006—September 2007*

| *Description* | *Year* | *Value (£000)* | *Tonnes* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beef (including meat and offal preparations) | 2006 | 152,553 | 84,516 |
| | 2007 (January to September) | 127,295 | 78,056 |

*Note:*
2007 data are subject to amendments
*Source:*
H M Revenue and Customs
Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis Division, DEFRA

### Birds: Conservation

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the UK bird Registration Scheme under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in deterring the illegal taking of high value native species from the wild. [165498]

**Joan Ruddock:** There is no clear evidence that bird registration has a deterrent effect on the illegal taking of high value native species from the wild for commercial sale. Such birds are also subject to stringent sales controls. Recent information from the National Wildlife Crime Unit indicates that there is minimal criminal activity in the trade of high value native species subject to bird registration, for example certain birds of prey, and such activity does not constitute a threat to their conservation.

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of a discontinuation or weakening of the UK Bird Registration Scheme under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 on levels of illegal wildlife trade. [165505]

**Joan Ruddock:** My Department has undertaken a public consultation on a number of possible changes to the bird registration scheme. A number of respondents to that consultation considered any discontinuation or weakening of the registration scheme may lead to increase in illegal activity. My Department is seeking further advice from the UK's nature conservation advisors, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and others on these issues before taking a decision on any future changes to the list of birds that need to be registered.

### Citizens Juries

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many citizens juries were arranged for his Department for each year between 1997 and June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens jury; and what the cost was of each. [163599]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Data from 1997 are not readily available in core DEFRA and would require a significant review of all engagement activities and an analysis of the techniques used, resulting in extracting costs for citizens juries at a disproportionate cost.

### Cumbria

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166566]

**Jonathan Shaw:** At this time the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has no proposals to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

### Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163703]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The number of DEFRA staff who were disciplined or had their employment terminated or both as a result of a poor sick record in each year since 2003 is shown in the following table. The figures shown in the disciplined column includes those members of staff who were dismissed.

| | *Disciplined* | *Dismissed* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 19 | 12 |
| 2004 | 9 | 5 |
| 2005 | 11 | 8 |
| 2006 | 9 | 5 |
| 2007 | 4 | 1 |

### Departmental Flexible Working

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in his Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which his Department is responsible. [164325]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA has in place a process to allow parents (adopters, guardians or foster carers) of children under six or of disabled children under 18, and for carers of adults, to apply to work flexibly in line with recent legislation. However, information on applications for flexible working is not held centrally and could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost. Many requests for flexible working may be made informally between managers and staff and will not therefore be formally recorded.

The Department believes in giving its staff every opportunity to work to a pattern that best suits their lifestyle and the demands of family and dependents. This contributes to staff welfare and ultimately to delivery of a high quality service to our customers.

DEFRA is committed to helping its staff maintain a healthy work/life balance. This can only be achieved if employees and their managers are prepared to think creatively about working patterns so that efficient working can be combined with other responsibilities, and with employees' interests and enjoyment of life.

**Departmental Manpower**

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162459]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162460]

(3) when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162461]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 597W.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained *(A)* temporary and *(B)* permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165120]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Data on the age of applicants and interviewees are not available as DEFRA does not request this information. Date of birth is requested only from successful candidates. DEFRA is committed to creating an inclusive workplace, and to ensuring that there is no discrimination on the basis of age. By not asking candidates to disclose their date of birth there is a greater degree of objectivity built in the recruitment and appointment process.

The number of staff in each age band who gained temporary or permanent employment in DEFRA between 1 January and 19 November 2007 is shown in the following table.

| *Age band* | *Temporary* | *Permanent* |
|---|---|---|
| 30 to 39 | 8 | 79 |
| 40 to 49 | 6 | 46 |
| 50 to 59 | 3 | 16 |
| 60 to 69 | 1 | 0 |

**Departmental Official Hospitality**

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what entertainment or hospitality members of his Department's management board received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164750]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

**Departmental Property**

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164373]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA and its agencies, excluding the Environment Agency, spent the following on renovation and refurbishment of its estate:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 41,080 |
| 2003-04 | 61,370 |
| 2004-05 | 39,140 |
| 2005-06 | 46,870 |
| 2006-07 | 45,100 |

**Devolution**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how often he has used the dispute resolution procedures under the devolution agreements; and if he will make a statement. [165480]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has never used the dispute resolution procedures established under the devolution agreements.

**Diesel Fuel: Excise Duties**

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on fuel duty as it relates to farm machinery; and if he will make a statement. [164724]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have had no recent discussions with my ministerial colleagues on fuel duty as it relates to farm machinery.

**Fertilisers**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to reduce the regulatory burden on the fertiliser sector; and if he will make a statement. [165507]

**Jonathan Shaw:** EC law governs the regulation of the fertiliser sector and this is set out in the EC Fertilisers Regulation 2003/2003. This regulation defines the

composition and definition of all fertilisers which have been approved as EC designated fertilisers, and these can be freely traded within the EU. Every importer and manufacturer must ensure any fertiliser intended for sale in the EU complies with this regulation.

Work is under way to review and update the domestic Fertilisers Regulations 1991 which covers composition and labelling issues for fertilisers used within the UK. We are working closely with the fertiliser industry to ensure the updated regulations do not impose additional burdens on business.

## Fisheries

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the discard pilot projects being undertaken by the UK. [165469]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The UK and Ireland are jointly undertaking a pilot project in the Irish Sea to improve the quality of data on catches and discards in a range of fisheries. The project was approved by the European Commission on 27 August and participating vessels are therefore entitled to benefit from extra days at sea under the cod recovery programme.

Results so far are encouraging. The Irish sea data enhancement project has increased observer coverage by at least 100 per cent.. Fishermen, trained under the project, are now regularly engaged in the provision of self-collected discard samples. However, it is too early in the programme to fully evaluate the utility of these data.

The next step will be to apply data validation techniques, contrasting fishermen's records with observer data, and increase the number of participating vessels at the earliest possible opportunity.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations he has consulted on the European Commission Communication Fishing Opportunities for 2008: Policy Statement from the European Commission (COM(2007) 295 final); and if he will make a statement. [165471]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The document was copied to the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) and English producer organisations as well as a number of other stakeholders, including a range of environmental groups. Similar consultations were carried out in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the proposals contained in the European Commission Communication Fishing Opportunities for 2008: Policy Statement from the European Commission (COM(2007) 295 final); and if he will make a statement. [165472]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The statement does not contain any formal Commission proposals. These are not expected to emerge until later this month.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the total amount of fish landed by the 10 metre and under fleet was in each fishery in each year since 1997, expressed in *(a)* tonnes and *(b)* as a percentage of the UK quota available for that fishery; and if he will make a statement; [165479]

(2) what quota was allocated to the 10 metre and under fishing fleet in each year since 1997, broken down by fishing area, expressed in *(a)* tonnes and *(b)* a proportion of the total UK quota for that fishery area; and if he will make a statement. [166201]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information for 2006 is in Table 1. However, focusing on such an analysis can be misleading, as some of the quota stocks included are of little interest to inshore vessels. In addition, many of these vessels catch types of fish, such as crabs and scallops, which are not subject to quotas and they are thus not subject to the constraints on their activity that may be seen when targeting quota species. Figures for landings of non-quota stocks are included at the foot of the table and show that 20 per cent. of all landings by the UK 10 metre and under fleet are of quota stocks. In addition, the degree to which quota species are important for these vessels varies around the coast. Table 2 shows more detail for landings by 10 metre and under vessels administered from English ports, and shows that in some areas quota stocks make up a small proportion of the total value of fish landed by such vessels.

Similar results for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Table 1: Stock; fished by the UK's 10 metre and under fleet[1], 2006*

| | *UK quota as at 31 December (tonnes)* | *10 metre and under fleet's quota as at 31 December (tonnes)* | *Percentage of UK quota* | *Landings by the 10 metre and under fleet (tonnes)* | *Percentage of UK quota* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Quota Stocks* | | | | | |
| Anglers 7 (incl. 8abde) | 4,907.1 | 218.3 | 4 | 164.8 | 3 |
| North Sea Anglers | 9,509.0 | 10.2 | 0 | 10.2 | 0 |
| West of Scotland Anglers | 1,818.5 | 2.4 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 |
| Blue Whiting I-VIII, XII, XIV | 80,179.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.3 | 0 |
| Cod 7a | 1,027.9 | 19.1 | 2 | 7.8 | 1 |
| Cod 7b-k | 688.9 | 278.9 | 40 | 290.7 | 42 |
| North Sea Cod | 8,356.9 | 167.4 | 2 | 204.8 | 2 |
| West of Scotland Cod | 455.7 | 11.5 | 3 | 0.1 | 0 |
| North Sea Dabs/Flounders | 2,218.0 | 17.6 | 1 | 15.3 | 1 |
| Haddock 7 | 1,154.0 | 35.0 | 3 | 24.4 | 2 |

*Table 1: Stocks fished by the UK's 10 metre and under fleet[1], 2006*

| | *UK quota as at 31 December (tonnes)* | *10 metre and under fleet's quota as at 31 December (tonnes)* | *Percentage of UK quota* | *Landings by the 10 metre and under fleet (tonnes)* | *Percentage of UK quota* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Sea Haddock | 39,053.0 | 69.8 | 0 | 34.5 | 0 |
| West of Scotland Haddock | 6,950.7 | 11.0 | 0 | 0.3 | 0 |
| Hake 6 and 7 (incl. 8abde) | 3,849.6 | 30.0 | 1 | 2.4 | 0 |
| North Sea Hake | 325.6 | 1.4 | 0 | 1.4 | 0 |
| Herring 4c/7d | 5,246.0 | 61.0 | 1 | 68.9 | 1 |
| Herring 7a (Manx and Mourne) | 4,237.9 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.8 | 0 |
| Herring 7ef | 488.0 | 151.0 | 31 | 87.5 | 18 |
| North Sea Herring | 69,010.9 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0 |
| North Sea Horse Mackerel | 3,917.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0 |
| West Coast Horse Mackerel | 11,101.1 | 6.0 | 0 | 5.9 | 0 |
| North Sea Lemon Sole/Witches | 3,430.8 | 36.0 | 1 | 33.1 | 1 |
| Deep Sea Ling IV | 2,941.8 | 2.5 | 0 | 2.5 | 0 |
| Deep Sea Ling VI-X, XII, XIV | 5,060.3 | 54.7 | 1 | 46.7 | 1 |
| North Sea Mackerel | 414.1 | 333.0 | 80 | 425.3 | 103 |
| West Coast Mackerel | 103,167.9 | 90.2 | 0 | 90.5 | 0 |
| Megrim 7 | 2,917.9 | 42.9 | 1 | 13.4 | 0 |
| West of Scotland Megrim | 903.0 | 5.0 | 1 | 0.4 | 0 |
| Nephrops 7 | 7,924.7 | 155.1 | 2 | 87.6 | 1 |
| North Sea Nephrops | 24,431.7 | 1,515.2 | 6 | 1,497.7 | 6 |
| West of Scotland Nephrops | 18,504.9 | 2,262.7 | 12 | 1,808.1 | 10 |
| Plaice 7a | 707.0 | 81.2 | 11 | 72.5 | 10 |
| Plaice 7de | 1,643.7 | 437.5 | 27 | 427.7 | 26 |
| Plaice 7fg | 118.9 | 35.9 | 30 | 34.3 | 29 |
| North Sea Plaice | 12,651.2 | 58.5 | 0 | 58.4 | 0 |
| West of Scotland Plaice | 477.0 | 5.0 | 1 | 0.2 | 0 |
| Pollack 7 | 2,658.0 | 306.3 | 12 | 271.7 | 10 |
| West of Scotland Pollack | 165.0 | 5.0 | 3 | 0.2 | 0 |
| Saithe 7 | 726.0 | 13.8 | 2 | 5.3 | 1 |
| North Sea Saithe | 9,379.0 | 14.8 | 0 | 10.0 | 0 |
| North Sea Skates and Rays | 1,695.0 | 195.8 | 12 | 181.1 | 11 |
| Sole 7a | 225.6 | 20.2 | 9 | 10.7 | 5 |
| Sole 7d | 1,215.0 | 464.9 | 38 | 419.1 | 34 |
| Sole 7e | 566.0 | 44.2 | 8 | 46.2 | 8 |
| Sole 7fg | 274.1 | 33.0 | 12 | 31.4 | 11 |
| North Sea Sole | 1,255.6 | 257.0 | 20 | 235.0 | 19 |
| West of Scotland Sole | 14.0 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.1 | 1 |
| Sprat 7de | 3,226.0 | 7.8 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 |
| North Sea Sprat | 4,944.0 | 137.8 | 3 | 92.3 | 2 |
| North Sea Spurdog | 778.0 | 8.9 | 1 | 6.9 | 1 |
| North Sea Turbot/Brill | 551.0 | 15.2 | 3 | 15.3 | 3 |
| Whiting 7a | 188.9 | 2.6 | 1 | 0.8 | 0 |
| Whiting 7b-k | 2,288.5 | 162.8 | 7 | 102.2 | 4 |
| North Sea Whiting | 11,733.1 | 312.2 | 3 | 337.4 | 3 |
| Total Quota Stocks | 481,672.5 | 8,208.5 | 2 | 7,285.6 | 2 |
| Total Non-Quota Stocks | n/a | n/a | n/a | 28,600.0 | n/a |
| Total All Species | n/a | n/a | n/a | 35,885.6 | n/a |

[1] Excludes vessels which are members of producer organisations.

*Table 2: 10 metre and under landings[1] by English port of administration, 2006*

| | *Total landings* | | *Quota landings* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Administration Port* | *Tonnes* | *£000* | *Tonnes* | *£000* | *Value of quota* |
| North Shields | 1,724 | 5,520 | 1,088 | 2,852 | 52 |
| Scarborough | 895 | 3,178 | 80 | 130 | 4 |
| Grimsby | 885 | 2,561 | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| Lowestoft | 1,709 | 3,314 | 487 | 1,463 | 44 |
| Hastings | 5,925 | 6,944 | 1,188 | 3,502 | 50 |

*Table 2: 10 metre and under landings[1] by English port of administration, 2006*

| Administration Port | Total landings | | Quota landings | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Tonnes | £000 | Tonnes | £000 | Value of quota |
| Poole | 4,118 | 5,642 | 130 | 574 | 10 |
| Plymouth | 1,163 | 2,078 | 324 | 548 | 26 |
| Newlyn | 3,884 | 6,994 | 1,535 | 1,828 | 26 |
| Brixham | 2,068 | 2,988 | 280 | 678 | 23 |
| Fleetwood | 217 | 437 | 54 | 111 | 25 |
| Total | 22,588 | 39,656 | 5,173 | 11,698 | 29 |

[1] Total quantity and value of landings reported by vessels involved in commercial sea fishing reported to UK Fisheries Administrations, excluding landings by vessels that are members of producer organisations.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) by what method he calculates the maximum sustainable yield for each UK fishery; and if he will make a statement; [165517]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effort reduction necessary in each UK fishery to ensure that maximum sustainable yield targets are met; and if he will make a statement. [165509]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) derives from classical fisheries science which states that in the long-term there is an average maximum catch that can be obtained from a stock, without threatening its future viability. This is achieved by fishing at the MSY level (MSYL). This level varies with both the biology (growth and mortality rates) of the stock in question and the fishing practices (including mesh size) used to catch it. The MSY will also depend upon the productivity of the stock. For most of our stocks, the MSYL is at relatively low fishing mortality—typically much lower than exists at present.

Reducing effort to MSY levels implies smaller catches in the short-term, with potential impacts on profitability and the size of the fleet. In the longer-term, however, fishing at MSY levels should ensure greater profitability (catches-per-unit-effort would be higher), improved sustainability and a more robust stock.

Several stocks are currently at or around MSY and can therefore be the continued basis for sustainable fisheries; for example, haddock and saithe. However, we are seeking to develop a common understanding with stakeholders of how we can best approach the issue of long-term management and the role of MSY more generally. In particular, there are significant potential socio-economic consequences with such an approach and it is important to ensure that the UK fishing industry has a sustainable long-term future. We will need to consider carefully how best to achieve a successful balance between stock conservation and fishing opportunity and the appropriate time frame(s) for this process.

## Fisheries: Navy

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the reasons for the reduction in the number of boardings by the Fisheries Protection Squadron (FPS) from 1746 in 1997 to 1279 in 2006; what the number of boardings were per FPS *(a)* vessel and *(b)* sortie in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [166203]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The reduction in the number of inspections at sea since 1997 can largely be attributed to:

(a) a reduction in the overall number of fishing vessels in the European fleet;

(b) a reduction in the number of patrol days; and

(c) a progressive move to a more targeted approach to inspection.

The number of inspections per patrol vessel is set out below for 1999 and 2006. Information on the number of inspections per vessel for 1997 and on the number of inspections per sortie is not readily available.

*Inspections per vessel 1999[1]*

| | Number | Vessel |
|---|---|---|
| Leeds Castle | 164 | OPV |
| Alderney | 217 | OPV |
| Anglesey | 39 | OPV |
| Guernsey | 247 | OPV |
| Lindisfarne | 222 | OPV |
| Orkney | 169 | OPV |
| Shetland | 187 | OPV |
| Berkeley | 177 | IPV |
| Bicester | 135 | IPV |
| Brocklesby | 121 | IPV |
| Middleton | 113 | IPV |
| Quorn | 31 | IPV |
| Total | 1,822 | |

[1] Collated from local records including inspections not recorded on Database.

*Inspections per vessel 2006*

| | Number | Vessel |
|---|---|---|
| Mersey | 346 | OPV |
| Severn | 306 | OPV |
| Tyne | 373 | OPV |
| Cattistock | 76 | IPV |
| Chiddingfold | 75 | IPV |
| Hurworth | 3 | IPV |
| Ledbury | 59 | IPV |
| Quorn | 41 | IPV |
| Total | 1,279 | IPV |

OPV = Offshore patrol vessel IPV = Inshore patrol vessel

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many patrol days have been lost for the River Class offshore patrol vessels as a result of *(a)* routine maintenance, *(b)* non-routine maintenance and *(c)* repairs in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [166432]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I have been asked to reply.

No patrol days have been lost by the River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels during the last 12 months. Each vessel undergoes two planned routine maintenance periods each year: one of nine days duration and one of 16 days duration. During the last 12 months all non-routine maintenance and repairs were carried out within the routine maintenance periods or at other times when the vessels were not engaged on operational duties.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how many patrol days each class of Fisheries Protection Squadron vessel will be available in each year of the new agreement beginning on 1 April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [166465]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I have been asked to reply.

Under the new Fisheries Protection Agreement between the MOD and DEFRA, which is due to begin on 1 April 2008, the River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels will be available for a total of 700 days during the first 12 months of the agreement. Thereafter, their availability will be between 650 and 750 days in each year. Each River class vessel will also undergo two planned routine maintenance periods each year: one of nine days duration and one of 16 days duration. The Hunt Class Mine Countermeasure vessels will also provide additional Fishery Protection duties, as and when required, although they will not be contracted to provide a set number of days.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on which dates there have been no Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron offshore patrol vessels in operation in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [166466]

**Jonathan Shaw:** During the period 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2007, the dates when no River class patrol vessels were in operation on fisheries protection duties are shown in the following table.

| | *Date(s)* | *Reason* |
|---|---|---|
| November 2006 | 5, 16 | 2 day stand off |
| December 2006 | 15, 16, 21-31 | 2 day stand off and 11 days Christmas leave |
| January 2007 | 1, 2, 15, 16, 30,31 | 2 day Christmas leave and 2 days stand off |
| February 2007 | 1, 2 | COs conference |
| March 2007 | 12, 13, 23, 24 | 2 day stand off and 2 days at Chatham Conference |
| April 2007 | 27, 28 | — |
| May 2007 | 11, 12, 26, 27 | 4 day stand off |
| June 2007 | 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 | Davit failure—all Rivers recalled for rectification |
| July 2007 | 0 | — |
| August 2007 | 3, 4 | 2 day stand off |
| September 2007 | 0 | — |
| October 2007 | 11 | — |

*Summary:*
14 days—stand offs in the middle of patrols
13 days—Christmas leave—no vessels or aircraft tasked
4 days—attendance at conferences
5 days—Davit failure—all Rivers recalled
5 days—No Rivers
41 days—total days no Rivers on task

**Fisheries: Northern Ireland**

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development on the upcoming fisheries negotiations in Brussels; and whether an agreed strategy has been drawn up. [164396]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have had a number of recent discussions with the Northern Ireland Minister and her Welsh and Scottish counterparts about the forthcoming negotiations and we have just agreed a series of UK priorities for them, reflecting our respective interests. We will revisit them in the light of the Commission proposals when these emerge.

**Food**

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will amend the guidance given in the Government's Code for Sustainable Procurement to give greater weight to the procurement of locally produced food and drink. [164700]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I assume my hon. Friend is referring to the guidance on the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI).

The legal framework governing public procurement does not allow public bodies to give greater weight to locally produced food and drink when awarding contracts. This is because public bodies are required to ensure public procurement is fair, transparent and not used to discriminate by setting up barriers to free trade. It would also reduce competition contrary to UK public procurement policy that is designed to achieve value for money for the taxpayer.

The legal and policy framework does provide public bodies with plenty of flexibility to be innovative in their procurement and, for example, we are encouraging them through the PSFPI to increase tendering opportunities for small and local producers. How they can do this is explained in the advice on the PSFPI website, including our recently published guide "Putting it into practice" on the guidance page at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/guidance.htm.

**Food: Prices**

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the effects of the increasing cost of fuel on food prices. [165597]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Research to assess the impact of rising oil prices on farming and the wider food chain was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 19 November and can be found on their website.

One of the illustrative findings of this study is that a rise in the oil price from $50 (the average price seen in 2005) to $100 a barrel (which is just above current levels) would lead to an increase in household food expenditure of around £3 billion. This equates to an increase of 4 per cent. within a total spend of

£79 billion, and presumes that all increased energy costs would be passed on to consumers. However, we might expect an increase in household expenditure of between roughly 5 per cent to 10 per cent. if all costs are passed on to consumers and secondary impacts are allowed for.

To further help put the impact of increasing fuel costs into context, it can be noted that oil prices more than tripled in the five years to October 2007 to over $80 a barrel, whereas retail food prices increased by 12.6 per cent. over the same period.

### Genetically Modified Organisms

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to assess whether there is a requirement to amend *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU legislation on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), to take account of genetic use restriction technologies and to ensure it is in compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity decision V/5. [166752]

**Mr. Woolas:** The provisions of the current EU regulatory regime are in compliance with decision V/5 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This decision recommends that products incorporating gene use restriction technologies should not be approved for field testing until justified by appropriate scientific data. Such products for commercial use should not be approved until appropriate authorised and strictly controlled scientific assessments, with regard to ecological and socio-economic impacts and any adverse effects for biological diversity, food security and human health, have been carried out in a transparent manner and the conditions for their safe and beneficial use validated.

### Miscanthus Grass: Subsidies

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how many acres of miscanthus grass *(a)* the South West and *(b)* Devon are currently in receipt of agricultural subsidies; and how much such subsidies amounted to in each of the last two years. [165184]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Grant aid for the costs associated with establishing miscanthus is paid under the energy crops scheme (ECS). The areas of miscanthus receiving grant aid and the amounts paid under ECS in the south west as a whole and Devon specifically in 2006 and 2007 were as follows:

| | *Area (ha)* | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| *(a) The South West* | | |
| 2006 | 34.88 | 32,089.60 |
| 2007 | 677.19 | 623,014.80 |
| *(b) Devon* | | |
| 2006 | 0 | 0 |
| 2007 | 5.73 | 5,271.60 |

The following table sets out the hectarage of miscanthus on which energy aid is paid in the south west:

| *County* | *2006* | *Hectares 2007* |
|---|---|---|
| Gloucestershire | 72.44 | 24.90 |
| Avon | 5.10 | 108.21 |
| Wiltshire | 16.29 | 24.25 |
| Isles of Scilly | 28.02 | 0 |
| Somerset | 94.32 | 385.22 |
| Total | 216.17 | 542.58 |

### Pollution: Fines

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was levied in fines by local authorities for incidences of pollution against *(a)* companies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* individuals for each type of pollution incidence in each financial year since 2000, broken down by (i) region and (ii) fine. [165541]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The total value of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), issued by local authorities, by English region for noise related offences in 2004-05 and 2005-06, is shown in the following table. FPNs issued for noise under the Noise Act 1996 can currently only be issued for night noise from domestic premises, which excludes companies.

| | *Fine total* | |
|---|---|---|
| *Region* | *2004-05* | *£ 2005-06* |
| South East | 100 | 100 |
| North West | 4 | |
| North East | 56 | 1,500 |
| West Midlands | 1,500 | — |
| East of England | 2 | — |
| Yorkshire and Humber | — | 100 |
| Total | 1,672 | 1,700 |

The Department does not hold data for offences from 2000 to 2003. Information on the number of FPNs issued by local authorities to businesses and individuals for local environmental quality offences is published on the DEFRA website.

Data for 2006-07 will be published shortly.

The Clean Air Act provides for fines for various offences which are all enforced by local authorities through magistrates courts. However, DEFRA does not collect these data.

For contaminated land, Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides for fines, levied through the courts, where a person fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with any of the requirements of a remediation notice. Any convictions for such offences are contained on a register maintained by the enforcing authority. DEFRA does not collect these data centrally.

Total fines imposed by the courts for offences under the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations, where local authorities are the regulator, are shown as follows.

*Fines imposed*

| *Region* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | £ |
| North East | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| North West | — | — | 500.00 | 23,000.00 | 475.00 | 22,500.00 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 5,500.00 | 10,500.00 | 9,500.00 | 4,500.00 | — | 4,500.00 |
| West Midlands | 2,000.00 | 15,000.00 | — | — | 237,820.00 | 23,000.00 |
| East Midlands | — | — | 4,000.00 | 30,000.00 | 8,000.00 | — |
| East of England | 72,400.00 | — | 2,500.00 | — | 2,000.00 | — |
| Wales | — | 8,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | — | 750.00 |
| London | — | — | 21,116.00 | — | — | — |
| South East | — | 29,000.00 | — | — | — | — |
| South West | 7,250.00 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 87,150.00 | 62,500.00 | 39,616.00 | 59,500.00 | 248,295.00 | 50,750.00 |

Our annual statistical reports, which contain details of each recorded prosecution, can be found on the DEFRA website.

Further data on fines levied by local authorities for other pollution incidents could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

### Poultry

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many mobile gassing units are available to cull poultry; and what the slaughter capacity is of each. [166402]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* DEFRA has 50 containerised gassing units available to cull poultry. Operationally the units are run in pairs. The capacity of each unit depends on the size and weight of the birds being culled and the speed they are caught at.

Under good conditions a throughput of 10,000 kg liveweight per hour per pair of units is possible. This can fall to around 4,000 kg per hour at more difficult field sites.

### Veterinary Laboratories Agency: New Haw

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of research staff at the New Haw Laboratory were *(a)* on permanent contracts, *(b)* on temporary contracts and *(c)* employed via an employment agency in each of the last five years; what projection he has made of the equivalent proportions in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [165926]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The staff in the Research Division of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) at New Haw as at 1 April each year are as follows:

| | *Permanent* | *Casual* | *Percentage Temporary Agency* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 97 | 3 | — |
| 2004 | 98 | 2 | — |
| 2005 | 98 | 2 | — |
| 2006 | 98 | 2 | — |
| 2007 | 96 | 4 | Less than 1 |

Details of the temporary staff prior to 2007 are not available as VLA only took responsibility for liaising with temporary agencies with effect from 1 April 2007.

For 2008 we would not expect to see any material change to the figures that are shown for previous years.

### Wheat: Prices

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the financial impact of the increased price of wheat on farmers; and if he will make a statement. [165598]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The increase in UK wheat prices reflects the rise in global wheat prices following two successive smaller world-harvests and increasing demand for cereals for food, feed and fuel purposes. The impact, in financial terms, will differ across the farming sectors, as explained in our recent report Implications of rising agricultural commodity prices. A copy of this report is available on the DEFRA website.

Projections of the aggregate measure of Total Income from Farming have been published on the DEFRA website and the first full set of farm income statistics, including a breakdown by farm type, will be published at the end of January.

## TREASURY

### Balance of Trade: EU Countries

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the UK's trade balance with other EU member states was in 2006-07; what the UK's trade balance with those countries in goods and services was in that year; and what proportion those figures represent of the UK's overall trade balance in each case. [167787]

**Kitty Ussher:** The UK had a total trade deficit of £32 billion with the EU27 in 2006. This was made up of a trade in goods deficit of £32 billion and a trade in services deficit of just £6 million. The UK's total trade deficit with the rest of the world was £48 billion in 2006. This was made up of a trade in goods deficit of £78 billion and a trade in services surplus of about £29 billion.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the UK's trade balance with other member states of the European Economic Community (EEC) was in the first 12 months after the UK joined the EEC as expressed in the value of the pound in 2007; what that balance was in *(a)* trade in goods and *(b)* trade in services; and what proportion these figures represented of the UK's trade balance in each case. [167788]

**Kitty Ussher:** The UK had a total trade deficit of £2.2 billion (1974 prices) with the EEC in 1974 (the first year after joining in 1973). This is based on IMF data, which do not give a breakdown between goods and services, or allow for the figure to be expressed in the value of the pound in 2007. This is 33 per cent. of the total trade deficit the UK had with the entire world, which was £6.7 billion.

### Bank Melli

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 396W, on Bank Melli, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Treasury Guidance to Financial Institutions on the Financial Action Task Force statement on Iran. [167253]

**Kitty Ussher:** A Treasury advisory notice was issued on 12 October 2007 and is available on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_108_07.cfm

### Capital Gains Tax

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implications of taxing capital gains at the same marginal rates as income tax from April 2008. [166351]

**Jane Kennedy:** The revenue yield from taxing all capital gains at the income tax rates announced for 2008-09, without applying taper relief or indexation allowance, would be of the order of £3.5 billion a year by comparison with the current (2007-08) regime. This is a broad estimate that assumes continuation of the tax-free annual exempt amount and takes into account the likely taxpayer response to the change.

### Child Benefit

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms exist to ensure that child benefit payments are made only to claimants with a legitimate claim; and if he will make a statement. [164712]

**Jane Kennedy:** The conditions of entitlement to child benefit are laid down by legislation. Associated statutory rules provide the basis for deciding who is to be treated as entitled where more than one person claims child benefit in respect of the same child for the same week. Inquiries are made of the claimants in such cases before any decision is made. Where there are inconsistencies in the evidence presented by either claimant, verification may be sought from third parties.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to review the effectiveness of the current system for allocation and payment of child benefit in circumstances where multiple claimants are unable to agree who should receive payment; and if he will make a statement. [164714]

**Jane Kennedy:** Child benefit is awarded to the person with the main responsibility for a child. Parents may choose which of them will receive the payments, and if no agreement is reached, HM Revenue and Customs is responsible for determining entitlement, based on the facts in individual cases. There is no provision for splitting child benefit and child tax credit, although in families with two or more children, parents can agree to each claim in respect of different children.

To meet the Government's child poverty target, it is necessary to focus financial support in a way that enables the parent with main caring responsibilities to provide for the child's needs. The Government will continue to listen to parents and representative groups regarding the best way to support families with children.

### Child Benefit: Eastbourne

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of recipients of child benefit in Eastbourne constituency who draw the benefit from post offices. [165391]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs estimate that in August 2006 6 per cent. of child benefit claimants in Eastbourne constituency were paid using a Post Office card account.

### Child Benefit: EU Nationals

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what checks are carried out to confirm eligibility of claim for child benefit made by citizens of other EU member states residing in the UK and whose children are not in the UK. [165582]

**Jane Kennedy:** A person making a claim for child benefit must provide documentary evidence of the child being claimed for, such as an original birth certificate, adoption certificate or passport.

All claims for child benefit are subject to a wide range of checks throughout the life of each claim. It would be inappropriate to disclose a complete list as to do so may provide assistance to those attempting to defraud the system.

Where claims are made on behalf of children living in another member state, HMRC do further checks to verify the information provided by the claimant, including verifying the composition of the family and to find out whether there are any other family benefits in payment in the other member state. HMRC and other member states have well established processes in place to ensure payments only go to those who are entitled.

### Child Benefit: Expenditure

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the additional annual cost of paying child benefit from the 29th week of pregnancy from April 2009. [167652]

**Jane Kennedy:** Child benefit can only be claimed after the birth of a child. There is no provision for child benefit to be claimed before a child is born.

The Government are introducing from April 2009 a separate payment to expectant mothers to help them during the important last weeks of pregnancy. Annual costs for the one-off payment, known as the Health in Pregnancy Grant, are estimated to be £145 million. In the first year they will be higher at approximately £175 million. These estimates have been updated to take account of Office for National Statistics 2006-based national population projections published on 23 October 2007.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167220]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury's core software systems include:

Microsoft
Oracle
Adobe
Citrix
Northgate HR Ltd.
SumTotal Systems
Decisys
Morse
IntegratedFM
Open Text
City Financials

### Departmental Orders and Regulations

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many statutory instruments his Department laid before Parliament between 2 May 1997 and 27 June 2007. [167088]

**Angela Eagle:** Our records show that 1,311 statutory instruments were made by the Treasury in the period concerned. How many of these instruments were laid before both Houses of Parliament or before the House of Commons could be determined only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in his Department were paid over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167202]

**Angela Eagle:** The reporting of individual earnings over the period requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Salaries of senior staff are reported in the annual Treasury resource accounts, copies of which are in the Library or accessible via the Treasury public website.

### Economic Situation

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the output per head of population in the *(a)* Scottish and *(b)* English economy was in each year since 1997. [167436]

**Andy Burnham:** Data on gross value added by region and country are published by ONS. Data for years from 1997 can be found in table 12.1 of the ONS publication Regional Trends published in 2006 at:

www.statistics.gov.uk.

### Exports: EU Countries

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* total value, *(b)* value of goods and *(c)* value of services of the UK's exports to other EU member states was in 2006-07; and what percentage of the UK's exports in that year these figures represent. [167789]

**Kitty Ussher:** In 2006 the value of total UK exports to the EU27 was £20 billion. Of this £15 billion was exports of goods and £5 billion was exports of services. In 2006 the EU27 accounted for 55 per cent. of total exports, 63 per cent. of goods exports and 41 per cent. of services exports.

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of the UK's exports to other European Economic Community (EEC) member states *(a)* in total, *(b)* in goods and *(c)* in services expressed by the value of the pound in 2007 in the first 12 months after the UK joined the EEC. [167790]

**Kitty Ussher:** The value of UK exports to the EEC in 1974 was £5.5 billion (1974 prices). This is based on IMF data, which do not give a breakdown between goods and services, or allow for the figure to be expressed in the value of the pound in 2007. This is 33 per cent. of the total value of UK exports in 1974, which was £16.8 billion.

### Foreign Workers: European Union

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of jobs which were filled in the *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Banbury travel to work area by EU migrant workers in each of the last three years. [167170]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 November 2007:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question on jobs filled by EU migrant workers in the Oxford and Banbury travel-to-work areas. (167170).

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on employment for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16 to 64 for men, 16 to 59 for women) and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

The table attached shows the numbers of working-age people in employment who were born in EU countries other than the

UK and were resident in the Oxford and Banbury travel-to-work areas, for the 12 month period ending in December of each year from 2004 to 2006.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the APS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

The APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the statistics published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 14 November 2007, which are based on the latest population estimates.

*Number of working-age[1] people born In EU countries (other than the UK)[2] who are in employment and are resident in Banbury and Oxford travel-to-work areas[3]*

Thousand

| *12 months ending in December* | *Banbury TTWA* | *Oxford TTWA* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 1 | 9 |
| 2005 | [4] | 2 |
| 2006 | 1 | 11 |

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[2] Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia.
[3] Travel-to-work areas (TTWAs) are approximations of self-contained labour markets based on commuting to work patterns.
[4] Less than 500 people.

*Notes:*
1. It should also be noted that the APS may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas because :- the survey excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months; it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent; it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc); it is weighted to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months; APS microdata are weighted to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
2. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin or uncertainty.

*Source:*
Annual Population Survey

### Health in Pregnancy Grant

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether A8 nationals resident in the UK will be eligible for the proposed health in pregnancy grant. [167737]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government are introducing from April 2009 a one-off payment to expectant mothers, known as the Health in Pregnancy Grant, to help them during the important last weeks of pregnancy. Only women ordinarily resident in the UK will be able to claim the payment.

### Hotels: Industrial Buildings Allowances

**Mr. Cox:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average change in income to hotel businesses which were claiming the Industrial Buildings Allowance of its retrospective withdrawal. [167160]

**Jane Kennedy:** The withdrawal of the Industrial Buildings Allowance (IBA) is part of a package of measures which also saw the reduction of the main rate of corporation tax and the introduction of a £50,000 Annual Investment Allowance, allowing 95 per cent. of businesses to write off all their expenditure on plant and machinery in the year in which it is made. The effect of this package will vary according to the particular circumstances of a business.

### Immigration Controls: Revenue and Customs

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff he expects to be transferred to the Border Security Force. [168002]

**Jane Kennedy:** The number of staff to be transferred has not yet been determined.

### International Monetary Fund

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proposals the UK has put forward for the reform of the *(a)* International Monetary Fund and *(b)* World Bank; and if he will place in the Library copies of relevant submissions. [166135]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Government attach a high priority to reform of the International Financial Institutions.

Progress towards our objectives with the IMF is set out annually in "The UK and the IMF", published by HM Treasury. This report is available in the House of Commons Library.

The UK's main proposals for the reform of the World Bank are set out on page 114 of the Government's 2006 White Paper on International Development, copies of which are in the Library. Good progress has been secured against these proposals.

More details of the UK's work with the World Bank are available in the regular publication "The UK and the World Bank". Copies of the latest version will be placed in the House of Commons Library this month.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for North East-Hampshire of 21 August and 19 June 2007 on the tax credit problems of the right hon. Member's constituent Mrs. Thayre. [164104]

**Jane Kennedy:** I understand that the two letters in question were addressed to the Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and that he wrote to the right hon. Gentlemen in reply on 22 November.

Although it is HM Revenue and Customs practice to reply to the majority of letters from Members within three weeks, following the administrative issue I referred to in my statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-3WS, some parts of HMRC's tax credits business have been subject to delays. HMRC regret this and will continue to try to deal with all cases as quickly as possible.

**John Mann:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the reasons are for his Department setting 25 December as the date by which to reply to the letter of 21 June from the hon. Member for Bassetlaw; [167509]

(2) by what means his Department plans to reply to the letter of 21 June from the hon. Member for Bassetlaw, on tax credits, as stated in the letter of 16 October to the hon. Member. [167510]

**Jane Kennedy:** Following the administrative issue I referred to in my statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS, some parts of HMRC's tax credits business have, unfortunately, been subject to delays. HMRC regret this and will continue to try to deal with all cases as quickly as they can.

These delays are a result of HMRC having to look again at cases potentially affected by the procedural error and to ensure that households/individuals affected by the error are not given incorrect advice in advance of their award being reviewed. The date indicated in the recent letter to the hon. Member was intended to be helpful and indicate the latest date by which HMRC hoped to have resolved the inquiry.

HMRC wrote a letter to the hon. Member on 18 October 2007 in reply to his letter of the 21 June 2007.

## Migrant Workers: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of migrant workers there were in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [166240]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 November 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on migrant workers in West Chelmsford constituency. (166240)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on employment for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16 - 64 for men, 16 - 59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the annual LFS and APS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

The annual LFS and APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 14 November 2007, which are based on latest population estimates.

The table attached, shows the numbers of working age in employment who were not born in the UK and were resident in West Chelmsford, for the twelve month periods ending in February for 2003 and 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the twelve month periods ending in March 2005, March 2006 and December 2006 from the APS (the January to December 2006 APS dataset is the most recent for which information on country of birth is currently available).

The table also shows the numbers of non-UK born persons in employment as percentages of all persons of working age in employment, in the area.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over time.

*Number of non-UK born persons of working age[1] in employment in the West Chelmsford constituency*

| *12 months ending* | *Employment level (thousand)* | *Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|
| March 2003 | 3 | 7 |
| March 2004 | 4 | 7 |
| March 2005 | 5 | 9 |
| March 2006 | 5 | 10 |
| December 2006 | 4 | 9 |

[1] Includes males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

*Notes*:

1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS gives an undercount because:

it excludes certain people who have not been resident in the UK for six months.
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).
it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.
microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

*Source*:
Annual Population survey

## Minimum Wage

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employers have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of paying employees below the minimum wage in (i) the UK, (ii) the North East and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in each of the last 10 years. [166596]

**Jane Kennedy:** There have been no employers prosecuted for failure to pay workers the national minimum wage. Since the minimum wage was introduced in April 1999 the focus has been on ensuring that workers receive the minimum wage and any arrears they are due. In total, just over £28 million in arrears has been identified for workers by national minimum wage compliance teams.

HMRC are now investigating a range of cases with a view to criminal prosecution. In August 2007 and October 2007 two employers were successfully prosecuted for obstruction and for neglecting to answer any question during minimum wage investigations.

## Pay: Young People

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average wage was for persons aged between 16 and 25 years *(a)* in total, *(b)* for those with higher education qualifications and (c) for those without higher education qualifications in (i) Cornwall, (ii) each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall, (iii) the south-west and (iv) England in each year since 1979. [166710]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 November 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the average earnings of young people with and without higher education qualifications. (166710)

The attached table gives the average gross weekly earnings of full-time employees aged 16-24, with and without higher education qualifications, resident in Cornwall, the South West region and England. The figures shown are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the three month period ending June of each year. This information is not available for periods prior to 1997. The LFS sample is too small to provide estimates for each constituency within Cornwall. The survey does not collect information about the earnings of self-employed people.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of

uncertainty.

*Table 1: Average gross weekly earnings of full-time[1] employees aged 16 to 24, with and without higher education qualifications, by area of residence, not seasonally adjusted*

£

| | Mean gross weekly earnings | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Three months ending June* | *With higher education qualifications[2]* | *Without higher education qualifications[2]* | *Total[3]* |
| County of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly[4] | | | |
| 1997 | [5] | 166 | 166 |
| 1998 | [6] | [6] | [6] |
| 1999 | [5] | 173 | 186 |
| 2000 | [6] | [6] | [6] |
| 2001 | [5] | 177 | 190 |
| 2002 | [5] | 272 | 272 |
| 2003 | [5] | 173 | 173 |
| 2004 | [5] | [5] | [5] |
| 2005 | [5] | 212 | 212 |
| 2006 | [5] | 220 | 220 |
| 2007 | [5] | 227 | 227 |
| South-west Government office region | | | |
| 1997 | 226 | 176 | 181 |
| 1998 | [6] | [6] | [6] |
| 1999 | 279 | 200 | 214 |
| 2000 | [6] | [6] | [6] |
| 2001 | 297 | 221 | 234 |
| 2002 | 281 | 241 | 246 |
| 2003 | 285 | 220 | 233 |
| 2004 | 314 | 242 | 257 |
| 2005 | 260 | 265 | 264 |
| 2006 | 317 | 265 | 276 |
| 2007 | 326 | 283 | 292 |

*Table 1: Average gross weekly earnings of full-time[1] employees aged 16 to 24, with and without higher education qualifications, by area of residence, not seasonally adjusted*

£

| | Mean gross weekly earnings | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Three months ending June* | *With higher education qualifications[2]* | *Without higher education qualifications[2]* | *Total[3]* |
| England | | | |
| 1997 | 260 | 192 | 204 |
| 1998 | [6] | [6] | [6] |
| 1999 | 301 | 202 | 223 |
| 2000 | [6] | [6] | [6] |
| 2001 | 314 | 231 | 247 |
| 2002 | 338 | 240 | 259 |
| 2003 | 331 | 240 | 258 |
| 2004 | 322 | 254 | 268 |
| 2005 | 336 | 260 | 275 |
| 2006 | 342 | 270 | 287 |
| 2007 | 362 | 278 | 297 |

[1] The LFS full-time/part-time split is based on respondents' self-classification of their employment status.
[2] Higher education includes degrees or equivalent qualifications and other higher education qualifications.
[3] Total includes people whose qualification level is unknown.
[4] The LFS sample does not cover the Isles of Scilly.
[5] Sample size too small to provide an estimate.
[6] Comparable estimates are not available for 1998 or 2000.
*Note:*
As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey

## Personal Income

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average salary for *(a)* men and *(b)* women was in each Government Office region in each of the last 10 years. [167329]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 26 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average salary for *(a)* men and *(b)* women was in each Government Office region in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (167329)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

ASHE results can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

## Poverty: Children

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether water poverty is included as a component in the delivery of public service agreements on child poverty. [166618]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The child poverty public service agreement (PSA) sets out the strategic priorities for Government in tackling child poverty including, among others, reducing poverty through raising incomes, and tackling poor living conditions.

Performance against the PSA is measured using three indicators, two of which are income measures and the third is a measure of low income and material deprivation combined.

By looking at income levels, living conditions and material deprivation the PSA includes a broad range of factors that influence child poverty.

### Public Expenditure: Wales

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the change to the budget of the National Assembly for Wales has been arising from the application of the Barnett formula comparability factor to expenditure on *(a)* the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, *(b)* London and Continental Railway and *(c)* the Channel Tunnel Rail Link; [168340]

(2) what the areas of devolved expenditure are upon which the comparability assessment for nuclear non-proliferation set out in the Statement of Funding Policy was based; [168355]

(3) how much has been spent on Cycling England since its inception; and what the corresponding change to the budget of the National Assembly for Wales was as a result of applying the Barnett formula comparability factor to this expenditure. [168361]

**Andy Burnham:** The expenditure by the UK Government on the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London and Continental Railway and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link has no effect on the budget of the National Assembly for Wales. Although the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform incurs expenditure on nuclear non-proliferation and subscriptions to international organisations on behalf of the UK, elements of the spending in relation to subscriptions are devolved. Expenditure is no longer recorded by the Treasury on a separate programme object for Cycling England; such spending is now subsumed within other transport programmes.

### Revenue and Customs: Bath

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much it will cost HM Revenue and Customs to move operations from the Bath tax office to Bristol in terms of *(a)* additional travel costs for relocating staff, *(b)* all removal costs, *(c)* adaptations to the Bristol building for IT equipment and *(d)* specific needs of relocating staff; and what change there will be to the number of staff employed. [166013]

**Jane Kennedy:** Short-term costs will be incurred in closing any office, but they need to be set not only against the specific estate savings from that closure but also the long-term efficiency savings arising from the overall reorganisation of HMRC's business, which cannot be apportioned to any specific office.

The Bath office was included in a review of offices in the Bristol urban centre. One of its conclusions was that business needs were best met by relocating teams from Bath, with the exception of the Enquiry Centre staff, to Bristol. The Enquiry Centre will remain in its present location or nearby.

Staff will wherever possible move with their work but the process to establish how many staff can reasonably be expected to travel to Bristol is still under way, and staff moves will not be completed until autumn 2008. The detailed breakdown of costs requested is therefore not yet available.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a full equality impact assessment has been carried out on the effect of the closure of the Bath HM Revenue and Customs office on *(a)* staff and *(b)* service users. [166014]

**Jane Kennedy:** An impact assessment of HMRC's plans to vacate Royal Mead, Bath is available at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/better-regulation/regional-reviews.htm. An Equality Screen of the plans, shown at Appendix A, concluded that a full equality impact assessment is not necessary at this stage as mitigating action can be provided for the potential and known impacts identified.

The impact on customers is expected to be minimal as Enquiry Centre services will continue to be provided in Royal Mead or nearby.

### Revenue and Customs: Sunderland

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the economic impact on Sunderland of closing the two city centre HM Revenue and Customs offices; and if he will make a statement. [165314]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC consider local private and public sector employment statistics including growth or reduction over the last 10 years together with the economic impact of likely staff migration to new locations. These indicators are among a number of factors which were taken into account before the decision was taken to close the HM Revenue and Customs offices in Gilbridge house and Shackleton house, Sunderland but retain others in the area.

### Social Security Benefits

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the take-up rate of *(a)* child tax credit, *(b)* working tax credit and *(c)* child benefit among those eligible has been in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [167093]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of children living in households eligible for but not claiming *(a)* child tax credit, *(b)* working tax credit and *(c)* child benefit in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [167094]

**Jane Kennedy:** Child and working tax credits were introduced in April 2003.

Estimates of take-up rates for child and working tax credit in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are not available. Estimates for 2003-04 and 2004-05, are produced in the HMRC publications "Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. Take-up Rates" for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm. Table 7 of these publications also detail the estimated number of in-work entitled non-recipients, by family size.

A precise take-up rate for child benefit is not available, but it is estimated that approximately 2 per cent. of families, although entitled, do not claim child benefit. The number of children living in households eligible for but not claiming child benefit is not available.

## Suicide

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many suicides there were in each county in each of the last 10 years. [167641]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 November 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many suicides there have been in each county in each of the last 10 years. (167641)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death in each county in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

*Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1, 2] in each county in England and Wales[3], 1997-2006[4]*

| | | | | | | | | | Deaths (persons) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| *Counties, England* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greater London | 667 | 778 | 682 | 621 | 630 | 630 | 659 | 627 | 620 | 588 |
| Greater Manchester | 274 | 299 | 296 | 293 | 262 | 223 | 242 | 232 | 270 | 242 |
| Merseyside | 136 | 155 | 161 | 141 | 157 | 132 | 132 | 122 | 137 | 130 |
| South Yorkshire | 130 | 133 | 124 | 113 | 100 | 103 | 116 | 99 | 117 | 99 |
| Tyne and Wear | 121 | 127 | 118 | 132 | 110 | 95 | 95 | 115 | 91 | 98 |
| West Midlands | 218 | 215 | 255 | 259 | 244 | 223 | 201 | 233 | 217 | 199 |
| West Yorkshire | 203 | 201 | 226 | 173 | 189 | 193 | 159 | 209 | 194 | 171 |
| Bedfordshire | 26 | 30 | 47 | 28 | 23 | 36 | 22 | 35 | 31 | 22 |
| Buckinghamshire | 38 | 46 | 39 | 37 | 36 | 32 | 29 | 33 | 45 | 27 |
| Cambridgeshire | 41 | 52 | 37 | 54 | 38 | 56 | 45 | 43 | 41 | 49 |
| Cheshire | 71 | 51 | 79 | 57 | 53 | 56 | 48 | 54 | 52 | 60 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 74 | 60 | 63 | 51 | 60 | 65 | 59 | 85 | 62 | 55 |
| Cumbria | 55 | 73 | 62 | 56 | 42 | 53 | 58 | 64 | 57 | 49 |
| Derbyshire | 67 | 57 | 59 | 69 | 57 | 64 | 68 | 52 | 54 | 46 |
| Devon | 65 | 86 | 78 | 79 | 68 | 68 | 56 | 78 | 77 | 63 |
| Dorset | 33 | 40 | 43 | 37 | 38 | 31 | 28 | 38 | 28 | 37 |
| Durham | 47 | 49 | 57 | 34 | 44 | 46 | 53 | 44 | 50 | 36 |
| East Sussex | 72 | 51 | 47 | 64 | 48 | 58 | 57 | 62 | 58 | 54 |
| Essex | 98 | 121 | 107 | 103 | 102 | 91 | 99 | 96 | 112 | 120 |
| Gloucestershire | 52 | 48 | 60 | 65 | 52 | 45 | 61 | 61 | 58 | 53 |
| Hampshire | 95 | 101 | 115 | 113 | 90 | 100 | 90 | 84 | 78 | 79 |
| Hertfordshire | 78 | 71 | 68 | 66 | 70 | 75 | 95 | 65 | 80 | 57 |
| Kent | 115 | 128 | 111 | 128 | 124 | 117 | 135 | 128 | 125 | 113 |
| Lancashire | 123 | 148 | 128 | 117 | 120 | 94 | 93 | 113 | 94 | 84 |
| Leicestershire | 45 | 41 | 49 | 54 | 45 | 48 | 36 | 48 | 36 | 54 |
| Lincolnshire | 43 | 64 | 73 | 61 | 73 | 63 | 70 | 53 | 73 | 68 |
| Norfolk | 71 | 89 | 86 | 71 | 76 | 74 | 73 | 91 | 74 | 66 |
| Northamptonshire | 56 | 60 | 45 | 55 | 66 | 53 | 64 | 55 | 46 | 51 |
| Northumberland | 28 | 30 | 32 | 30 | 25 | 30 | 29 | 55 | 32 | 39 |
| North Yorkshire | 67 | 63 | 52 | 58 | 59 | 50 | 59 | 45 | 59 | 54 |
| Nottinghamshire | 67 | 57 | 72 | 71 | 70 | 64 | 50 | 93 | 67 | 59 |
| Oxfordshire | 52 | 45 | 54 | 44 | 55 | 68 | 41 | 56 | 40 | 72 |
| Shropshire | 17 | 21 | 30 | 31 | 30 | 29 | 37 | 25 | 28 | 28 |
| Somerset | 39 | 47 | 40 | 59 | 44 | 44 | 50 | 45 | 48 | 56 |
| Staffordshire | 56 | 87 | 85 | 81 | 73 | 70 | 83 | 56 | 50 | 50 |
| Suffolk | 48 | 58 | 56 | 48 | 62 | 59 | 60 | 54 | 59 | 52 |
| Surrey | 107 | 91 | 73 | 79 | 74 | 78 | 89 | 78 | 91 | 66 |
| Warwickshire | 29 | 42 | 39 | 53 | 60 | 40 | 38 | 48 | 23 | 34 |
| West Sussex | 82 | 62 | 76 | 69 | 80 | 69 | 76 | 79 | 67 | 65 |
| Wiltshire | 25 | 27 | 31 | 43 | 29 | 44 | 37 | 36 | 46 | 30 |
| Worcestershire | 51 | 48 | 64 | 66 | 51 | 38 | 61 | 48 | 54 | 46 |

*Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1, 2] in each county in England and Wales[3], 1997-2006[4]*

*Deaths (persons)*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Unitary authorities, England* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bath and North East Somerset UA | 13 | 17 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 4 |
| Blackburn with Darwen UA | 31 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 18 | 21 | 15 | 21 | 11 | 14 |
| Blackpool UA | 26 | 27 | 19 | 21 | 33 | 29 | 24 | 5 | 27 | 26 |
| Bournemouth UA | 22 | 19 | 21 | 22 | 26 | 16 | 19 | 21 | 15 | 18 |
| Bracknell Forest UA | 3 | 16 | 9 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 7 |
| Brighton and Hove UA | 42 | 49 | 34 | 38 | 45 | 37 | 47 | 36 | 33 | 46 |
| Bristol, City of UA | 32 | 41 | 46 | 28 | 30 | 24 | 34 | 24 | 44 | 35 |
| Darlington UA | 7 | 16 | 10 | 9 | 17 | 6 | 12 | 10 | 14 | 9 |
| Derby UA | 16 | 21 | 35 | 26 | 16 | 30 | 16 | 16 | 22 | 22 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire UA | 20 | 39 | 21 | 28 | 35 | 38 | 22 | 29 | 33 | 26 |
| Halton UA | 10 | 12 | 6 | 19 | 8 | 12 | 15 | 9 | 15 | 13 |
| Hartlepool UA | 4 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 8 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 4 |
| Herefordshire, County of UA | 19 | 18 | 29 | 19 | 16 | 15 | 12 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Isle of Wight UA | 18 | 12 | 23 | 13 | 19 | 20 | 24 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Kingston upon Hull, City of UA | 17 | 44 | 34 | 40 | 29 | 26 | 27 | 38 | 33 | 22 |
| Leicester UA | 28 | 32 | 34 | 33 | 30 | 19 | 30 | 26 | 32 | 28 |
| Luton UA | 17 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 19 | 16 | 18 | 15 | 15 |
| Medway UA | 12 | 24 | 12 | 18 | 17 | 22 | 13 | 20 | 21 | 23 |
| Middlesbrough UA | 14 | 19 | 15 | 22 | 17 | 18 | 32 | 27 | 14 | 11 |
| Milton Keynes UA | 17 | 21 | 15 | 26 | 7 | 20 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 12 |
| North East Lincolnshire UA | 9 | 24 | 21 | 16 | 11 | 21 | 13 | 22 | 11 | 9 |
| North Lincolnshire UA | 9 | 16 | 14 | 18 | 14 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 20 | 11 |
| North Somerset UA | 9 | 11 | 14 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 17 | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| Nottingham UA | 18 | 41 | 39 | 29 | 36 | 20 | 35 | 38 | 34 | 27 |
| Peterborough UA | 15 | 17 | 10 | 20 | 24 | 22 | 14 | 22 | 10 | 14 |
| Plymouth UA | 26 | 22 | 43 | 29 | 27 | 16 | 19 | 24 | 13 | 29 |
| Poole UA | 19 | 10 | 20 | 15 | 16 | 18 | 13 | 11 | 14 | 15 |
| Portsmouth UA | 16 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 19 | 19 | 22 | 17 | 9 | 23 |
| Reading UA | 4 | 15 | 10 | 11 | 20 | 11 | 14 | 19 | 11 | 11 |
| Redcar and Cleveland UA | 11 | 17 | 11 | 20 | 13 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 19 | 12 |
| Rutland UA | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Slough UA | 7 | 18 | 12 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 7 | 10 | 12 |
| South Gloucestershire UA | 13 | 11 | 13 | 17 | 14 | 11 | 13 | 8 | 11 | 14 |
| Southampton UA | 26 | 28 | 31 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 15 | 22 | 31 | 20 |
| Southend-on-Sea UA | 13 | 19 | 9 | 20 | 24 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 20 |
| Stockton-on-Tees UA | 24 | 23 | 6 | 21 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 27 | 15 | 19 |
| Stoke-on-Trent UA | 18 | 32 | 31 | 18 | 30 | 33 | 17 | 18 | 20 | 16 |
| Swindon UA | 8 | 22 | 15 | 13 | 17 | 25 | 24 | 20 | 11 | 14 |
| Telford and Wrekin UA | 14 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 18 | 17 | 8 | 14 | 18 |
| Thurrock UA | 7 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 8 | 14 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 9 |
| Torbay UA | 20 | 17 | 9 | 23 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 18 | 11 | 20 |
| Warrington UA | 13 | 18 | 22 | 22 | 26 | 20 | 10 | 17 | 14 | 18 |
| West Berkshire UA | 13 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 14 | 20 | 8 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead UA | 7 | 17 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 11 |
| Wokingham UA | 7 | 9 | 18 | 17 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| York UA | 19 | 22 | 16 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 17 | 15 | 11 |

*Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1, 2] in each county in England and Wales[3], 1997-2006[4]*

*Deaths (persons)*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Counties and county boroughs, Wales* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blaenau Gwent | 4 | 9 | 12 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 11 | 5 | 3 |
| Bridgend | 13 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 10 | 16 | 18 | 16 | 11 | 20 |
| Caerphilly | 11 | 17 | 22 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 21 | 21 | 9 | 15 |
| Cardiff | 28 | 22 | 32 | 27 | 28 | 27 | 32 | 36 | 21 | 34 |
| Carmarthenshire | 18 | 17 | 24 | 24 | 27 | 17 | 27 | 24 | 20 | 22 |
| Ceredigion | 7 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 9 |
| Conwy | 18 | 15 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 19 | 15 | 18 | 12 | 20 |
| Denbighshire | 16 | 17 | 14 | 14 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 17 | 13 | 14 |
| Flintshire | 11 | 21 | 10 | 23 | 15 | 13 | 17 | 20 | 13 | 16 |
| Gwynedd | 11 | 16 | 14 | 17 | 9 | 9 | 16 | 13 | 8 | 9 |
| Isle of Anglesey | 2 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 11 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 10 |
| Monmouthshire | 8 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 10 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 17 | 15 | 12 | 14 | 21 | 18 | 20 | 16 | 21 | 14 |
| Newport | 9 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 15 | 13 |
| Pembrokeshire | 11 | 13 | 12 | 15 | 17 | 17 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 8 |
| Powys | 13 | 10 | 15 | 12 | 22 | 8 | 15 | 10 | 19 | 10 |
| Rhondda, Cynon, Taff | 25 | 34 | 31 | 22 | 33 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 19 | 18 |
| Swansea | 27 | 31 | 30 | 22 | 27 | 28 | 34 | 19 | 15 | 26 |
| The Vale of Glamorgan | 7 | 9 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 12 | 11 | 6 |
| Torfaen | 8 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| Wrexham | 13 | 13 | 14 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 15 |

1 Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases. Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the years 1997 to 2000. and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34. excluding Y33.9 (where the coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2006.

2 Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

3 Based on boundaries as of 2007. All counties, county boroughs and unitary authorities in England and Wales have been included in the definition of 'county'.

4 Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Tax Allowances: Travel

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will change the arrangements for the submissions of the P87 tax relief fund for those who undertake essential mileage, especially those working in the care industry. [168172]

**Jane Kennedy:** All employees who are paid less than the statutory mileage rates by their employer for business journeys in their own cars are entitled to claim tax relief on the difference. This can be done by completing a form P87. There are no plans to change these arrangements.

## Tax Collection

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was collected *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of the population by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors from residents of (i) Southend, (ii) the Essex region, (iii) Greater London and (iv) Scotland in each year since 1997; and what Government spending was in each area (A) in total and (B) per head of population in the same period. [167435]

**Andy Burnham:** Total and per capita tax revenue is not available at a regional level. Sources of the most relevant available data are shown as follows.

The ONS publish estimates of income tax, council taxes and vehicle taxes paid by households by region, available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/Results_Tables_Values.xls

The relevant data can be found under "D.5 Current taxes on income, wealth etc" in table 2:8.

Regional stamp duty receipts attributable to residential property are published by HMRC, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-2.pdf.

No corresponding information is available on taxes paid by companies and other organisations, or on other taxes paid by households.

Total public spending that can be identified as benefiting a particular country or region is published in table 9.1 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2007, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending_statistics/pes_publications/pespubpesa07.cfm

The equivalent per capita information can be found in table 9.2. Public spending can be split into that which can be identified as benefiting a particular country or region and that which is for the benefit of the UK as a whole, for example defence spending. Therefore, the figures in PESA do not represent total public spending, which is not available by region.

The Scottish Executive also produces an annual publication "Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland". This is available at:

http://www.scotland.gov.ukPublications/2006/12/11084016/0

## Taxation: Carers

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will bring forward proposals to extend tax relief for child care vouchers to include the care of vulnerable disabled and elderly people; if he will make an assessment of the effects such a policy would have on employment outcomes for carers, older workers and women; and if he will make a statement; [162300]

(2) what plans he has to extend the tax-free status afforded to child care vouchers to cover the care of elderly and disabled people; and what recent representations he has had on the economic aspects of such a proposal, including any likely savings to Government thereof. [164343]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government are keen to ensure that people with caring responsibilities can make the most of opportunities to balance work with their caring responsibilities.

They will look carefully at the costs and benefits of any further proposals, including whether it is the most effective mechanism for tackling the issues faced by carers, particularly those experienced by specific groups, when making an assessment of the case for intervention in this area.

The Government keep tax reliefs under review and has received representations in this area. However, it does not believe that allowing employers to provide employees with tax and NICs free care vouchers is the most appropriate, fair or cost effective way of tackling the issues faced by carers.

## Throat Cancer

**Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people *(a)* were diagnosed with and *(b)* died from throat cancer in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the north east and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [165401]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 November 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people have (a) been diagnosed with and (b) died from throat cancer in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. (165401)

'Throat cancer' is not a precise medical term. A number of different types of cancer can develop in the throat. Many patients and relatives use the term 'throat cancer' to mean cancer of the larynx (the voice box); or cancer of the thyroid gland (which is at the front of the base of the neck(; or cancer of the oesophagus (the food pipe). We assume that you sought information for one of these cancers.

The latest available figures for (a) newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) for the United Kingdom are for the year 2004. Numbers of cases of laryngeal, thyroid and oesophageal cancer for the years 1997 to 2004 for (i) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (ii) South Tyneside County District, (iii) North East Government Office Region and (iv) United Kingdom are given in Tables 1-3 below.

The latest available figures for (b) deaths are for the year 2006. Numbers of deaths from laryngeal, thyroid and oesophageal cancer for the years 1997 to 2006 for (i) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (ii) South Tyneside County District, (iii) North East Government Office Region and (iv) United Kingdom are given in Tables 4-6 below.

*Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of laryngeal cancer[1]: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, north east government office region and United Kingdom, 1997 to 2004[2]*

| | Jarrow | South Tyneside | North East | United Kingdom |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 7 | 13 | 143 | 2,315 |
| 1998 | 11 | 19 | 167 | 2,299 |
| 1999 | 9 | 13 | 140 | 2,358 |
| 2000 | 5 | 10 | 138 | 2,440 |
| 2001 | 8 | 10 | 145 | 2,335 |
| 2002 | 6 | 10 | 138 | 2,173 |
| 2003 | 3 | 7 | 139 | 2,195 |
| 2004 | 6 | 10 | 143 | 2,168 |

[1] Cancer of the larynx is defined as code C32 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics
Welsh Cancer Intelligence & Surveillance Unit.
Scottish Cancer Registry, National Health Service in Scotland
Northern Ireland Cancer Registry

*Table 2. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of thyroid cancer[1]: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, north east government office region and United Kingdom, 1997 to 2004[2]*

| | Jarrow | South Tyneside | North East | United Kingdom |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 0 | 2 | 46 | 1,235 |
| 1998 | 1 | 3 | 58 | 1,309 |
| 1999 | 1 | 3 | 54 | 1,348 |
| 2000 | 3 | 4 | 57 | 1,405 |
| 2001 | 2 | 3 | 60 | 1,488 |
| 2002 | 0 | 2 | 69 | 1,522 |
| 2003 | 0 | 1 | 53 | 1,584 |
| 2004 | 4 | 6 | 75 | 1,638 |

[1] Cancer of the thyroid is defined as code C73 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics
Welsh Cancer Intelligence & Surveillance Unit
Scottish Cancer Registry, National Health Service in Scotland
Northern Ireland Cancer Registry

*Table 3. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of oesophageal cancer-: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, north east government office region and United Kingdom, 1997 to 2004[2]*

| | Jarrow | South Tyneside | North East | United Kingdom |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 7 | 10 | 311 | 7,101 |
| 1998 | 10 | 16 | 287 | 7,049 |

*Table 3. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of oesophageal cancer-: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, north east government office region and United Kingdom, 1997 to 2004*[2]

| | Jarrow | South Tyneside | North East | United Kingdom |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 8 | 19 | 296 | 7,294 |
| 2000 | 11 | 20 | 317 | 7,391 |
| 2001 | 5 | 15 | 290 | 7,580 |
| 2002 | 14 | 23 | 323 | 7,570 |
| 2003 | 11 | 15 | 343 | 7,674 |
| 2004 | 5 | 25 | 300 | 7,653 |

[1] Cancer of the oesophagus is defined as code C15 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics
Welsh Cancer Intelligence & Surveillance Unit
Scottish Cancer Registry, National Health Service in Scotland
Northern Ireland Cancer Registry

*Table 4. Number of deaths where laryngeal cancer*[1] *was the underlying cause of death: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, north east government office region and United Kingdom, 1997 to 2006*[2, 3, 4, 5]

| | Jarrow | South Tyneside | North East | United Kingdom |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 2 | 7 | 51 | 905 |
| 1998 | 2 | 7 | 75 | 897 |
| 1999 | 5 | 8 | 52 | 873 |
| 2000 | 2 | 3 | 39 | 839 |
| 2001 | 1 | 2 | 64 | 895 |
| 2002 | 1 | 4 | 51 | 890 |
| 2003 | 2 | 5 | 39 | 837 |
| 2004 | 3 | 4 | 46 | 793 |
| 2005 | 2 | 3 | 45 | 789 |
| 2006 | 1 | 2 | 37 | 804 |

[1] Cause of death for cancer of the larynx was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 161 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C32. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[3] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[4] UK figures include deaths of non-residents in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but not in England and Wales.
[5] UK figures for 2006 include figures for Northern Ireland which are provisional until the publication of the Registrar General Annual Report in December 2007.

*Table 5. Number of deaths where thyroid cancer*[1] *was the underlying cause of death: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, north east government office region and United Kingdom, 1997 to 2006*[2, 3, 4, 5]

| | Jarrow | South Tyneside | North East | United Kingdom |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 297 |
| 1998 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 329 |
| 1999 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 342 |
| 2000 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 297 |
| 2001 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 304 |
| 2002 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 309 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 354 |
| 2004 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 330 |
| 2005 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 341 |

*Table 5. Number of deaths where thyroid cancer*[1] *was the underlying cause of death: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, north east government office region and United Kingdom, 1997 to 2006*[2, 3, 4, 5]

| | Jarrow | South Tyneside | North East | United Kingdom |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 335 |

[1] Cause of death for cancer of the thyroid was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 193 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C73. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[3] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[4] UK figures include deaths of non-residents in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but not in England and Wales.
[5] UK figures for 2006 include figures for Northern Ireland which are provisional until the publication of the Registrar General Annual Report in December 2007.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.

*Table 6. Number of deaths where oesophageal cancer*[1] *was the underlying cause of death: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, north east government office region and United Kingdom, 1997 to 2006*[2, 3, 4, 5]

| | Jarrow | South Tyneside | North East | United Kingdom |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 10 | 20 | 299 | 6,740 |
| 1998 | 15 | 19 | 327 | 6,815 |
| 1999 | 9 | 17 | 280 | 6,969 |
| 2000 | 15 | 28 | 310 | 6,911 |
| 2001 | 8 | 25 | 297 | 7,044 |
| 2002 | 11 | 17 | 322 | 7,260 |
| 2003 | 10 | 18 | 318 | 7,351 |
| 2004 | 7 | 22 | 319 | 7,231 |
| 2005 | 11 | 20 | 331 | 7,422 |
| 2006 | 8 | 21 | 324 | 7,418 |

[1] Cause of death for cancer of the oesophagus was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 150 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C15. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[3] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[4] UK figures include deaths of non-residents in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but not in England and Wales.
[5] UK figures for 2006 include figures for Northern Ireland which are provisional until the publication of the Registrar General Annual Report in December 2007.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics.

## Unemployment: Young People

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 16 to 24 year olds were not in employment, education or training in the UK in the most recent period for which figures are available. [167361]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 November 2007:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are currently not in full-time education or training or in employment in the most recent period for which figures are available. (167361)

Not seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted estimates for the educational status, economic activity and inactivity of young people are published each month in the Labour Market Statistics First Release in table 14, covering the UK for age groups, 16-17, 18-24, and 25 and over and are available at:

http://nswebcopy/downloads/theme_labour/LMS_FR_HS/WebTable14SA.xls

The attached table has been derived from the published seasonally adjusted table 14. It shows the number of people between the ages of 16 and 24, who are currently not in full-time education or training or in employment, for the three months ending September 2007. These estimates are seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Number of people between the age of 16 and 24, by gender who are currently not in full-time education[1] or training[1] or employment[2], United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted, July to September 2007*

*Thousand*

| *Three months ending September* | *All Persons* | *Male* | *Female* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ILO unemployed | 490 | 305 | 186 |
| Economically Inactive | 748 | 251 | 497 |
| Total | 1,238 | 556 | 683 |

[1] Refers to people who are not in full-time education or training. This does include people in part-time education and/or some form of training. The total number of young people who are not in employment, education or training ("NEET") cannot therefore be derived from this table.

[2] People not in employment refers to those who are ILO unemployed or economically inactive.

*Source:*
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### VAT: Fraud

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the amount of VAT received by the public purse from telephone calls by members of the public invited by television shows under false pretences; [162774]

(2) if he will donate to the unclaimed registrar fund the VAT receipts from telephone calls invited under false pretences by television shows; [162969]

(3) if he will donate to charity the VAT receipts from telephone calls invited under false pretences by television shows. [162970]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answers 12 November 2007]:* No such estimate has been made. In normal circumstances, if an individual receives a refund or discount from a supplier, any tax originally charged may be adjusted by the supplier and refunded to the customer.

All VAT collected by HMRC is applied to the Government's priorities and spending plans, as set out by the Chancellor in the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review. This includes over £515 million that will be invested by the Office of the Third Sector in third sector programmes over the comprehensive spending review period.

### Wealth

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* millionaires and *(b)* billionaires there are in the UK; and how many there were of each in (i) 2002 and (ii) 1997 in (A) cash and (B) 2007 prices. [167234]

**Jane Kennedy:** We estimate that in the year 2002 there were 250,000 millionaires in the United Kingdom.

The corresponding figure for 1997 is not available. No estimate exists for the number of billionaires.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department provides advice on budgeting to people in receipt of tax credits. [164486]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC does not provide budgeting advice to any of its customers, including its tax credit customers.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to HM Revenue and Customs of dealing with complaints about tax credits was in the last 12 months. [166824]

**Jane Kennedy:** The cost of dealing with complaints in the Tax Credit Office between 1 November 2006 and 31 October 2007 was around £6.5 million.

It is not possible to provide costs for other areas of HMRC that might also handle complaints relating to tax credits.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many full-time equivalent staff members the Adjudicator's Office employs to deal with complaints about tax credits; [166825]

(2) what the cost to the Adjudicator's Office of dealing with complaints about tax credits was in the last 12 months. [166826]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Adjudicators Office advise that approximately 39 full-time equivalent staff members dealt with complaints about tax credits in the last 12 months.

The overall costs of the Adjudicator's Office are published in her annual report which is available at:

http://www.adjudicatorsoffice.gov.uk/pdf/report2007.pdf.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what has been spent on recovering tax credit overpayments in each year since the introduction of tax credits; and what estimate he has made of future costs of recovery; [166666]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of writing off debts arising from the overpayment of tax credits for *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* all overpayments. [166667]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The total costs of administration of tax credits from 2003-04 to 2004-06 were published on 6 July 2007 in part two of the Standard Report on HM Revenue and Customs 2006-07 accounts together with provisional estimates for 2006-07. Details of administration costs for earlier years were published in the Inland Revenue Trust statements for those years. Details of tax credits overpayments written off from 2003-04 to 2005-06 were published in the same report.

Details of Inland Revenue losses, including tax written off by HM Revenue and Customs, is published annually in the departmental accounts and are available on the departmental website.

Information on the amount spent on recovering tax credits overpayments and the cost of writing off debts arising from the overpayment of tax credits is not available.

## JUSTICE

### Convictions: Theft

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of convictions for theft of personal property resulted in *(a)* custodial and *(b)* community sentences in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [168327]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information notified by the courts and the police to the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database does not enable theft of personal property to be positively identified. The information contained in the following table covers those theft offences where it is likely that all, or the majority, of the offences will relate to personal property.

*Persons sentenced for theft offences which mostly involve personal property*[1]

| | *Number sentenced* | *Percentage given custody* | *Percentage given community sentences* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 31,433 | 18 | 33 |
| 2005 | 22,792 | 21 | 47 |

[1] Theft from the person, in a dwelling, of a pedal cycle, of or from a motor vehicle and other miscellaneous theft.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Figures for 2006 will be published in mid-December.

### Crime: Arrests

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of arrests in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough led to criminal conviction in each year since 1997. [166943]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department collects aggregated data on number of arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) separately from record level data on all criminal convictions. This means that centrally we are unable to tell which arrests have led to a conviction.

### Crown Dependencies

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when the Privy Council last consulted his Department or its predecessor on legislative matters submitted for promulgation from *(a)* the Isle of Man and *(b)* Guernsey; [167317]

(2) when the Privy Council last consulted his Department or its predecessor on legislative matters submitted for promulgation from Jersey. [167321]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice is consulted on all legislative matters for Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man submitted for ratification to the Privy Council. The last occasion that Orders were approved for Jersey and Guernsey were at the Privy Council meeting on 14 November 2007; and for the Isle of Man at the meeting on the 4 April 2007.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what legislation from *(a)* Guernsey and *(b)* the Isle of Man is awaiting promulgation by his Department. [167318]

**Mr. Wills:** The legislation awaiting promulgation on behalf of Guernsey and the Isle of Man is listed in the following table.

| *Island* | *Law* |
|---|---|
| Isle of Man | Presiding Officers Bill 2007 |
| | Onchan District (Amendment) Bill 2007 |
| Bailiwick of Guernsey | Forgery and Counterfeiting (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2006 |
| | Law Reform (Inheritance and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Guernsey) Law, 2006 |
| | Animal Welfare (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey) Law, 2006 |
| | Preferred Debts, Désastre Proceedings and Miscellaneous Provisions (Guernsey and Alderney) Law, 2006 |
| | Road Traffic (Drink Driving) (Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2006 |
| | Police Property and Forfeiture (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2006 |
| | Emergency and Health Workers (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2006 |
| | Homicide and Suicide (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2006 |
| | Public Order (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2006 |
| | Social Insurance (Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2006 |
| | Fees Charges and Penalties (Guernsey) Law, 2007 |
| | Competition and Trading Standards (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey) Law, 2007 |
| | Road Traffic (Parking Fees and Charges) (Enabling Provisions) (Guernsey) Law, 2007 |
| | Income Tax (Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2007 |

| *Island* | *Law* |
|---|---|
| | Motor Taxation and Licensing (Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2007 |
| | Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2007 |
| | Regulation of Utilities (Bailiwick of Guernsey) (Amendment) Law, 2007 |
| | Forfeiture of Money in Civil Proceedings Law, 2007 |
| | Criminal Justice (Aiding and Abetting etc.) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2007 |
| | Trusts (Guernsey) Law, 2007 |
| Alderney | Smoking (Prohibition in Public Places and Workplaces) (Alderney) Law 2007, |
| | Renewable Energy (Alderney) Law, 2007 |
| Sark | Sark Hall Trust (Dissolution) Law, 2007 |
| | Real Property (Transfer Tax, Charging and Related Provisions) (Sark) Law, 2007 |
| | Reform (Sark) Law, 2007 |

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in respect of how many draft Bills *(a)* Guernsey, *(b)* the Isle of Man and *(c)* Jersey has sought promulgation in the last 12 months. [167319]

**Mr. Wills:** Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man have not sought promulgation of any draft Bills in the last 12 Months.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what circumstances an assenting order may be refused in relation to the Channel Islands. [167324]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government may, via the Privy Council, advise Her Majesty to refuse Royal Assent to legislation submitted by the government of the Channel Islands if that legislation would put the United Kingdom in breach of its international obligations; or infringe against principles of good government; or adversely affect the UK's responsibility for the defence of the Islands; or otherwise be contrary to fundamental constitutional principles.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what circumstances an assenting order may be refused in relation to the Isle of Man. [167326]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government may, via the Privy Council, advise Her Majesty to refuse Royal Assent to legislation submitted by the government of the Isle of Man if that legislation would put the United Kingdom in breach of its international obligations; or infringe against principles of good government; or adversely affect the UK's responsibility for the defence of the Island; or otherwise be contrary to fundamental constitutional principles.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many pieces of Crown dependency legislation are awaiting ratification; and what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the arrangements for *(a)* scrutiny and *(b)* promulgation of such legislation. [167327]

**Mr. Wills:** There are currently 47 pieces of Crown dependency legislation awaiting ratification. The Secretary of State for Justice is content that the existing arrangements for the scrutiny and promulgation of Crown dependencies legislation provides for Her Majesty's Government to give effect to their constitutional responsibilities towards the Islands.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to conduct reviews of the process by which legislation from the Crown dependencies is processed; and if he will make a statement. [167428]

**Mr. Wills:** The process by which legislation from the Crown dependencies is processed by the Ministry of Justice is kept under constant review to take into account the needs of both the Crown dependencies and the UK.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what legislation from Jersey is awaiting promulgation by his Department. [167433]

**Mr. Wills:** The legislation awaiting promulgation on behalf of Jersey is shown in the following list.

*Law*

States of Jersey (Amendment No. 3) Law 200-

High Hedges (Jersey) Law 200-

Public Elections (Amendment No. 2) (Jersey) Law 200-

Financial Services (Amendment No. 3) (Jersey) Law 200-

Air Transport Permits (Repeal) (Jersey) Law 200-

States of Jersey (Amendment No. 4) Law 200-

Criminal Justice (Community Service Orders) (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 200-

Police (Complaints and Discipline) (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 200-

Price and Charge Indicators (Jersey) Law 200-

Collective Investment Funds (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Law 200-

Banking Business (Amendment No. 6) (Jersey) Law 200-

Insurance Business (Amendment No. 6) (Jersey) Law 200-

Financial Services (Amendment No. 4) (Jersey) Law 200-

Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 200-

Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 200-

Drug Trafficking (Offences) (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 200-

Terrorism (Amendment No. 2) (Jersey) Law 200-

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government plan to make new Crown appointments on the Channel Islands. [167434]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice is currently processing the appointment of the new Solicitor-General of Jersey. There are no other new Crown appointments scheduled for the immediate future. The timing of the appointment of the majority of Crown officers in the Crown dependencies is determined by when their Warrants or Letters Patent expire, or by their retirement from office.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consultations were undertaken by his Department which have not been made open to the public in the last year. [164885]

**Mr. Wills:** My Department undertakes a range of consultation activities, which are open to the public and which include formal written public consultations, as well as other forms of engagement such as focus groups, public meetings and online discussion sessions. Our formal written consultation papers are conducted in accordance with the Government's consultation code. Details of current consultations can be found at the Ministry of Justice website www.justice.gov.uk.

My Ministry also conducts other forms of consultation where the intended audience is more limited. For example, this might include consulting interested groups of stakeholders on particular, discrete, specialised or technical topics, perhaps as an early part of policy development. Such consultation may be less accessible or open to the public and we do not keep a central record of this type of consultation or engagement.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167371]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department has a target to respond to letters from the public within 15 working days. From 1 January to 31 October 2007, 6,536 separate pieces of correspondence (including e-mails) were answered with the target met in 91 per cent. of cases.

The more detailed information the hon. Member has requested is not readily available and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167224]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice's main corporate software manufacturers are:

Adobe
Apache Software Foundation
Barron McCann
BMC Software
Business Objects
Cable & Wireless Web Technology Group
Cast Software
Computer Associates
Concorde
Formscape
Grisoft
HP
IBM
McAfee
Microsoft Corporation
Mirapoint
MySQL AB
Network Intelligence
Novell
Oracle Corporation
QAS
Quest Software
Red Hat
Reddot Solutions
SSL
Sun Microsystems
Symantec
Tower Software
Websense

### Departmental Manpower

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil servants in his Department and its predecessors *(a)* transferred to other Government departments and *(b)* left the Civil Service in each of the last five years. [162732]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply separately—13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 203-7W.

Statistics on civil servants transferring between Departments from the former Department of Constitutional Affairs are not published and therefore not available in the response from the National Statistician; however, an update on centrally held figures shows that a total of 107 staff transferred or moved on loan to other Government Departments for the year to September 2006.

Figures for staff who left the civil service in each of the last five years can be found as part of the Annual Civil Service Statistics publication in the separate response from the National Statistician to this question.

### Departmental Orders and Regulations

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many regulations his Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked in the last 12 months. [167078]

**Maria Eagle:** Between 3 October 2006 and 8 May 2007 the Department for Constitutional Affairs made 74 Statutory Instruments. Since 9 May 2007 the Ministry of Justice has made 69 Statutory Instruments.

The information requested on how many instruments were revoked can be supplied only at disproportionate cost. No central record is maintained of this information. Revocations will have been made by new Acts of Parliament or new Statutory Instruments.

### Departmental Public Consultations

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what opinion polls the Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164954]

**Maria Eagle:** Opinion polls are normally understood as surveys of a representative sample of the public about their opinions on public issues, including those related to a Department's policies. So opinion polls of staff should be understood as surveys of their opinions on public issues or departmental policies, not internal matters.

The table gives the details requested on 15 opinion polls conducted by the Ministry of Justice since 27 June 2007. The cost in 2007-08 of these contracts is £668,531 (excluding VAT).

This figure excludes the costs of the HMCS Court User Survey and Tribunal Service Customer Satisfaction Survey that are commercial in confidence. Both surveys are subject to periodic re-tendering and the release of this information would weaken the Department's future negotiation position.

£

| *Name of the opinion poll* | *Staff or public* | *Name of firm carrying out work* | *Purpose of poll* | *Total cost in 2007-08* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | *Excluding VAT* | *Including VAT* |
| HMCS Court User Survey | Public | MORI | To elicit levels of court user satisfaction with standards or customer service and other key service issues across the high court, the Crown, county and magistrates courts and associated offices. | [1]— | [1]— |
| Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES) | Public—Victims and witnesses | Ipsos MORI | To gather consistent and comparable local and national data on victim and witness. | 485,990 | 571,038 |
| Court Service Survey | Public | Not applicable—conducted internally | Feedback on service. | 0 | 0 |
| Constitution Directorate tracker survey | Public | Ipsos MORI | Brief "tracker" survey to monitor public knowledge and opinion of key areas of Constitution Directorate work (e.g. Freedom of Information, Data Protection, Human Rights Act, etc.). Normally repeated three to four times per year. | 38,300 | 45,000 |
| General Public Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (Capibus survey) | Public | Ipsos MORI | Determine baseline data on awareness of the Mental Capacity Act among the general public prior to implementation. | 22,289 | 26,179 |
| Legal Professionals Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (online survey) | Public—Legal professionals | Ipsos MORI | Determine baseline data on awareness of the Mental Capacity Act among legal professionals prior to implementation. | 7,800 | 9,165 |
| Health and Social Care Professionals Awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (paper survey) | Public—Health and Social Care professionals | Distribution through Binleys Survey conducted by Ipsos MORI | Determine baseline data on awareness of the Mental Capacity Act among health and social care professionals prior to implementation. | 24,278 | 28,468 |
| Survey Draft Public Law Outline | Staff and family court practitioners | Not applicable—conducted internally | To seek views on the operation of the draft Public Law Outline in 10 initiative areas. | 0 | 0 |
| The Pro Bono Work of Legal Executives | Public—Legal executives (i.e. non-gov legal professionals) | ECOTEC | Primary purpose of this research was to estimate the extent and value of pro bono work being carried out by legal executives. However, there were some questions seeking opinions, e.g. on legal executives' feelings about carrying out pro bono work. | 39,813 | 46,780 |
| Testing of language and understanding of Departmental Strategic Objectives | Public | GfK NOP | To test comprehension and meaning of the Departmental Strategic Objectives with the 500 members of the public. | 6,270 | 7,367 |
| Employment tribunal mediation pilot | Public | Westminster University, fieldwork sub-contracted to BMRB | To assess effectiveness of judicial mediation in the employment tribunal. | 43,800 | 51,465 |
| Local Face to Face satisfaction Survey | Public | Not applicable—conducted internally | Customer Satisfaction | 0 | 0 |

£

| Name of the opinion poll | Staff or public | Name of firm carrying out work | Purpose of poll | Total cost in 2007-08 Excluding VAT | Including VAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Local Victim and Witness Survey | Public | Not applicable—conducted internally by Witness Service | Victim Code Compliance Confidence | 0 | 0 |
| Local Student Confidence in CJS | Public | Not applicable—conducted internally | Confidence and establishing knowledge re a student programme. | 0 | 0 |
| Tribunal Service Customer Satisfaction Survey | Public | FDS International Limited | To inform Key Performance Indicator (KPI) on customer satisfaction. | [1]— | [1]— |
| | Total | | | 668,531 | 785,462 |

[1] Costing information is not supplied as this is commercial in confidence. This survey is subject to periodic re-tendering and release of the costings would weaken the Department's negotiating position.

## Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies; [165243]

(2) how much his Department, its predecessor and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; [167301]

(3) how much his Department, its predecessors and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167357]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department and its agencies have the following full-time equivalent staff responsible for brand management and marketing. A single figure is provided because it is not possible to separate out the staff time between brand management and marketing elements.

| | Full-time equivalent |
|---|---|
| MOJ HQ | 1.8 |
| Her Majesty's Courts Service | 1.5 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 0.5 |
| Office for Criminal Justice Reform | 2 |
| National Offender Management Service | 1.5 |
| Tribunals Service | 0.3 |
| HM Prisons Service | 0 |

My Department, the Ministry of Justice since 9 May 2007, its predecessor since 20 November 2006 to 8 May 2007, and its agencies spent the following on staff working on marketing and branding in the last 12-month period. A single figure is provided because it is not possible to separate out the staff time between branding and marketing elements.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| MOJ HQ | 122,548 |
| Her Majesty's Courts Service | 99,358 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 32,990 |
| Office for Criminal Justice Reform | 76,152 |
| National Offender Management Service | 68,502 |
| Tribunals Service | 10,100 |
| HM Prisons Service | 0 |

My Department, the Ministry of Justice since 9 May 2007, its predecessor since 20 November 2006 to 8 May 2007, and its agencies spent the following on managing its corporate identities in the last 12-month period.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| MOJ HQ | 10,985 |
| Her Majesty's Courts Service | 99,358 |
| Office of the Public Guardian | 32,990 |
| Office for Criminal Justice Reform | 22,000 |
| National Offender Management Service | 0 |
| Tribunals Service | 10,100 |
| HM Prisons Service | 0 |

Where figures are identical in the second and third question (HMCS and OPG), they indicate that the overall cost cannot be broken down into the separate areas of work.

## Driving Offences

**Matthew Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* speeding and *(b)* dangerous driving offences were recorded in (i) Cornwall, (ii) each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and (iii) England in each year since 1979. [166715]

**Maria Eagle:** Available information held by my Department for the Devon and Cornwall police force area and that of England, from 1980 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the table.

Information is collected centrally at police force area level only.

*Table A: Motoring offences dealt with within Devon and Cornwall police force area, 1980 to 2005*

Number of offences

| | Speed limit offences[2] | | | Dangerous driving offences[2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Written warnings | Fixed penalty notices[3] | Court proceedings[4] | Written warnings | Fixed penalty notices | Court proceedings[5] |
| 1980 | 231 | n/a | 6,087 | [6]— | n/a | 204 |

*Table A: Motoring offences dealt with within Devon and Cornwall police force area, 1980 to 2005*

*Number of offences*

| | *Speed limit offences*[1] | | | *Dangerous driving offences*[2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Written warnings* | *Fixed penalty notices*[3] | *Court proceedings*[4] | *Written warnings* | *Fixed penalty notices* | *Court proceedings*[5] |
| 1981 | 238 | n/a | 5,028 | 2 | n/a | 155 |
| 1982 | 178 | n/a | 4,711 | 1 | n/a | 135 |
| 1983 | 133 | n/a | 6,264 | [6]— | n/a | 125 |
| 1984 | 136 | n/a | 5,814 | 3 | n/a | 150 |
| 1985 | 166 | n/a | 4,629 | 8 | n/a | 121 |
| 1986 | 211 | 1,740 | 8,093 | [6]— | n/a | 113 |
| 1987 | 57 | 10,493 | 3,472 | 3 | n/a | 135 |
| 1988 | 25 | 10,040 | 3,349 | 2 | n/a | 219 |
| 1989 | 47 | 14,387 | 4,503 | 2 | n/a | 136 |
| 1990 | 58 | 17,173 | 6,431 | [6]— | n/a | 142 |
| 1991 | 66 | 14,447 | 5,936 | 1 | n/a | 156 |
| 1992 | 845 | 9,044 | 3,592 | [6]— | n/a | 113 |
| 1993 | 2,752 | 14,041 | 2,013 | 2 | n/a | 136 |
| 1994 | 1,101 | 25,914 | 3,679 | 1 | n/a | 122 |
| 1995 | 503 | 26,078 | 3,810 | 3 | n/a | 113 |
| 1996 | 503 | 29,078 | 3,792 | [6]— | n/a | 93 |
| 1997 | 665 | 36,150 | 4,021 | [6]— | n/a | 102 |
| 1998 | 1,652 | 32,757 | 3,741 | [6]— | n/a | 182 |
| 1999 | 495 | 33,682 | 4,345 | 2 | n/a | 159 |
| 2000 | 39 | 28,091 | 5,324 | 2 | n/a | 137 |
| 2001 | 10 | 33,389 | 4,661 | 1 | n/a | 157 |
| 2002 | [6]— | 31,144 | 4,390 | [6]— | n/a | 136 |
| 2003 | [6]— | 63,916 | 6,961 | [6]— | n/a | 173 |
| 2004 | [6]— | 91,662 | 6,990 | [6]— | n/a | 134 |
| 2005 | [6]— | 53,474 | 7,665 | [6]— | n/a | 116 |

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Motor Vehicles(Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 2 as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 s. 2.
[3] Fixed penalty notices paid i.e. no further action.
[4] Will include fixed penalty notices issued but not paid and referred to court.
[5] From 1980-1997 findings of guilt at all courts, numbers of court proceedings, are not available. From 1998 onwards covers total proceedings at magistrates courts.
[6] Data not available
n/a = not applicable
*Notes:*
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Table B: Motoring offences dealt with in, England, 1980 to 2005*

*Number of offences*

| | *Speed limit offences*[1] | | | *Dangerous driving offences*[2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Written warnings* | *Fixed penalty notices*[3] | *Court proceedings*[4] | *Written warnings* | *Fixed penalty notices*[3] | *Court proceedings*[4] |
| 1980 | 9,316 | n/a | 366,464 | 152 | n/a | 5,092 |
| 1981 | 7,811 | n/a | 311,804 | 100 | n/a | 4,877 |
| 1982 | 6,561 | n/a | 245,940 | 132 | n/a | 4,902 |
| 1983 | 7,498 | n/a | 251,291 | 183 | n/a | 4,605 |
| 1984 | 6,104 | n/a | 234,844 | 339 | n/a | 4,318 |
| 1985 | 6,340 | n/a | 230,996 | 205 | n/a | 4,364 |
| 1986 | 7,901 | 65,219 | 283,541 | 139 | n/a | 4,234 |
| 1987 | 9,592 | 267,024 | 156,574 | 173 | n/a | 4,674 |
| 1988 | 12,696 | 318,258 | 159,300 | 173 | n/a | 6,017 |
| 1989 | 10,958 | 381,949 | 156,214 | 151 | n/a | 6487 |
| 1990 | 12,192 | 421,548 | 156,286 | 184 | n/a | 7,107 |
| 1991 | 18,766 | 424,555 | 150,807 | 226 | n/a | 7,105 |
| 1992 | 10,842 | 438,928 | 143,323 | 185 | n/a | 6,328 |
| 1993 | 24,090 | 375,844 | 96,561 | 552 | n/a | 5,695 |
| 1994 | 23,912 | 454,234 | 101,721 | 289 | n/a | 5,645 |
| 1995 | 28,053 | 509,405 | 115,508 | 277 | n/a | 5,829 |
| 1996 | 24,188 | 565,091 | 124,541 | 333 | n/a | 5,217 |
| 1997 | 31,751 | 669,409 | 123,999 | 338 | n/a | 5,372 |
| 1998 | 24,747 | 730,146 | 154,181 | 246 | n/a | 8,785 |
| 1999 | 19,592 | 775,001 | 155,041 | 89 | n/a | 8,458 |
| 2000 | 21,981 | 926,760 | 143,625 | 59 | n/a | 8,238 |

*Table B: Motoring offences dealt with in, England, 1980 to 2005*

*Number of offences*

| | Speed limit offences[1] | | | Dangerous driving offences[2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Written warnings* | *Fixed penalty notices*[3] | *Court proceedings*[4] | *Written warnings* | *Fixed penalty notices*[3] | *Court proceedings*[4] |
| 2001 | 15,530 | 1,117,409 | 141,672 | 50 | n/a | 8,641 |
| 2002 | 5,209 | 1,383,694 | 133,955 | 31 | n/a | 9,759 |
| 2003 | 4,850 | 1,900,037 | 149,234 | 44 | n/a | 10,334 |
| 2004 | 6,048 | 1,824,892 | 153,478 | 44 | n/a | 9,392 |
| 2005 | 5,498 | 1,797,950 | 175,379 | 65 | n/a | 7,703 |

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 2 as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 s. 2.
[3] Fixed penalty notices paid i.e. no further action.
[4] Will include fixed penalty notices issued but not paid and referred to court.
[5] From 1980-97 findings of guilt at all courts, numbers of court proceedings, are not available. From 1998 onwards covers total proceedings at magistrates courts.
n/a = not applicable

*Notes:*
1: It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

## Drugs: Crime

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of those people accused of *(a)* possession and *(b)* dealing in cannabis were (i) found not guilty, (ii) fined and (iii) imprisoned in each year since 1997. [166841]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows persons proceeded against for offences of the possession and supply etc. of cannabis, which was a Class B drug until January 2004 and a Class C drug thereafter.

Figures for 2006 will be published in mid-December.

*Persons[1] proceeded against for cannabis[2] offences by outcome, England and Wales 1997 to 2005*

| | | | | Persons found not guilty[3] | | Persons fined | | Persons sentenced to immediate custody | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Offence* | *Statute* | *Year* | *Persons proceeded against* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| Possession of cannabis | Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 sec 5(2) | 1997 | 18,940 | 1,965 | 10.4 | 11,890 | 62.8 | 268 | 1.4 |
| | | 1998 | 24,395 | 2,167 | 8.9 | 15,503 | 63.5 | 410 | 1.7 |
| | | 1999 | 24,322 | 2,036 | 8.4 | 15,215 | 62.6 | 451 | 1.9 |
| | | 2000 | 22,304 | 1,922 | 8.6 | 13,638 | 61.1 | 361 | 1.6 |
| | | 2001 | 22,705 | 2,212 | 9.7 | 12,960 | 57.1 | 290 | 1.3 |
| | | 2002 | 25,976 | 2,527 | 9.7 | 14,123 | 54.4 | 241 | 0.9 |
| | | 2003 | 27,871 | 2,423 | 8.7 | 15,172 | 54.4 | 288 | 1.0 |
| | | 2004 | 14,646 | 1,459 | 10.0 | 6,972 | 47.6 | 161 | 1.1 |
| | | 2005 | 13,040 | 980 | 7.5 | 6,316 | 48.4 | 136 | 1.0 |
| Dealing in cannabis (Possession of cannabis with intent to supply or offering to supply cannabis | Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 secs 4(3) and 5(3) | 1997 | 5,063 | 1,073 | 21.2 | 357 | 7.1 | 1,779 | 35.1 |
| | | 1998 | 5,053 | 1,215 | 24.0 | 399 | 7.9 | 1,940 | 38.4 |
| | | 1999 | 4,497 | 1,150 | 25.6 | 313 | 7.0 | 1,685 | 37.5 |
| | | 2000 | 3,195 | 869 | 27.2 | 231 | 7.2 | 1,213 | 38.0 |
| | | 2001 | 2,593 | 748 | 28.8 | 160 | 6.2 | 883 | 34.1 |
| | | 2002 | 2,545 | 652 | 25.6 | 154 | 6.1 | 805 | 31.6 |
| | | 2003 | 2,790 | 691 | 24.8 | 144 | 5.2 | 697 | 25.0 |
| | | 2004 | 2,142 | 408 | 19.0 | 122 | 5.7 | 576 | 26.9 |

*Persons[1] proceeded against for cannabis[2] offences by outcome, England and Wales 1997 to 2005*

| Offence | Statute | Year | Persons proceeded against | Persons found not guilty[3] | | Persons fined | | Persons sentenced to immediate custody | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| | | 2005 | 2,176 | 306 | 14.1 | 87 | 4.0 | 407 | 18.7 |

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Cannabis was re-classified from a Class B to a Class C drug from 29 January 2004 and formal warnings for its possession introduced.
[3] Includes proceedings discontinued, discharges under sec 6, charges withdrawn and charges dismissed at magistrates courts and not tried and acquitted at the Crown court.
*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice.

## Fines

**Mr. Clelland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any registered vehicle owner has been summoned to appear before a court for not paying a fine imposed for not returning a statutory off-road declaration in the latest period for which figures are available. [167207]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

In the last financial year (2006-07) no summons were issued for failure to return a statutory off road declaration. However 107,550 county court claims were issued.

**Mr. Clelland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any registered vehicle owners appeared before a court for failure to pay a fine imposed for failure to return a statutory off-road declaration in each of the last five years. [167209]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I have been asked to reply.

The exact number of people who appeared before a court for failure to declare a vehicle off the road are not recorded but the number is very low.

## Fixed Penalties

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fixed penalty notices were unpaid after *(a)* 28 days, *(b)* three months and *(c)* six months in (i) England, (ii) London and (iii) each London borough in each year since 1997. [166935]

**Maria Eagle:** Available information from 1997-2004 (latest available) is provided in the following tables. 2005 data will be available next year.

The information collected by my Department identifies the number of motoring offences fixed penalty notices issued by result at police force area level. Data are collected on the disposal (i.e. paid, fine registration certificate issued etc.). However because of the time taken for the procedures for payment to be enforced the data are collected approximately nine months later than the period of issue and published in the following year's annual volume covering motoring offences.

Motoring offences fixed penalty notices data are submitted to my Department on a calendar year basis from police forces. The data do not contain a month by month breakdown.

*Table A: Motoring offences fixed penalty notices issued by result[1] London[2], 1997-2004*

*Number of offences*

| Result | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Penalty paid within 28 days | 189,860 | 176,343 | 145,939 | 151,845 | 134,464 | 143,188 | 210,542 | 228,679 |
| Payment accepted after 28 days | 85,176 | 82,662 | 62,988 | 63,164 | 57,689 | 48,973 | 74,609 | 67,222 |
| No further action taken | 20,869 | 19,601 | 32,122 | 30,491 | 6,739 | 7,238 | 8,486 | 5,744 |
| Fine Registration Certificate issued[3] | 71,646 | 62,163 | 44,317 | 52,339 | 67,020 | 60,381 | 86,264 | 68,336 |
| Referred for court proceedings | 3,528 | 3,504 | 4,829 | 2,319 | 2,449 | 2,290 | 3,146 | 2,451 |

[1] Endorsable and non-endorsable notices combined.
[2] Metropolitan and City of London police forces combined.
[3] Includes outcomes not finalised.
*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
*Source:*
Annual volume 'Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary tables'—Table 21(a)

*Table B: Motoring offences fixed penalty notices issued by result[1] England, 1997-2004*

*Number of offences*

| Result | 1997 | 1998 | 1999[2] | 2000[2] | 2001[2] | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Penalty paid within 28 days | 1,708,525 | 1,791,766 | 1,641,894 | 1,606,430 | 1,583,908 | 1,718,020 | 2,294,334 | 2,189,052 |
| Payment accepted after 28 days | 767,999 | 722,512 | 625,183 | 570,804 | 558,627 | 479,477 | 612,224 | 579,004 |
| No further action taken | 244,179 | 214,360 | 211,397 | 181,438 | 120,805 | 92,575 | 79,306 | 77,999 |
| Fine Registration Certificate issued[3] | 464,456 | 439,854 | 377,308 | 341,459 | 341,615 | 289,688 | 313,642 | 273,584 |

*Table B: Motoring offences fixed penalty notices issued by result[1] England, 1997-2004*

*Number of offences*

| Result | 1997 | 1998 | 1999[2] | 2000[2] | 2001[2] | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Referred for court proceedings | 30,044 | 28,014 | 18,994 | 14,253 | 13,796 | 11,756 | 10,646 | 11,536 |

[1] Endorsable and non-endorsable notices combined.
[2] Revised following amendments received from Essex police force area.
[3] Includes outcomes not finalised.
*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
Annual volume 'Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary tables'—Table 21(a)

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many penalty notices for disorder were issued in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 1997; [166937]

(2) how many people were issued with fixed penalty notices as a result of evidence from *(a)* closed circuit television (CCTV) on buses in London in each year since 1997 and *(b)* the live CCTV pilot on buses in London. [166946]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the number of penalty notices for disorder issued in England and London for 2004 and 2005 are provided in the table. Data on the number of PNDs issued by London borough are not collected by my department. The Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme was rolled out to all police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Information on the type of evidence used to issue a PND is not reported to my department.

*Number of penalty notices for disorder issued in England and London 2004 and 2005[1]*

| Police force area | Number issued |
|---|---|
| *London, City of* | |
| 2004 | 60 |
| 2005 | 219 |
| *Metropolitan* | |
| 2004 | 12,758 |
| 2005 | 18,047 |
| *England* | |
| 2004 | 61,260 |
| 2005 | 138,262 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

## Fraud: Sentencing

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to introduce tougher sentencing for perpetrators of fraud, as recommended in the 2006 Fraud Review. [168181]

**Maria Eagle:** The Fraud Review recommended that the Sentencing Guidelines Council (SGC) issue guidelines in respect of fraud offences. The SGC has indicated that it intends to issue guidance on sentencing under the new Fraud Act 2006. On 16 August 2007, the Sentencing Advisory Panel issued a consultation paper on sentencing for fraud offences. The consultation will close on 6 December 2007.

The Fraud Review also recommended increases in the maximum sentence for fraud offences. The Government are considering their response.

## Magistrates Courts: Finance

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* administration of magistrates courts in (i) England, (ii) London and (iii) each London borough in each year since 1997. [166932]

**Maria Eagle:** HMCS was formed on 1 April 2005 by the merger of the Court Service and 42 magistrates areas.

Following the creation of HMCS the accounting records of the Court Service were archived and accessing them to provide the information back to 1997 would be disproportionately expensive for the Department. Information is not recorded centrally on a London borough basis and to obtain this information would be disproportionately expensive.

Expenditure on magistrates courts and the administrative costs of magistrates courts available since the inception of HMCS, have been provided in the following table:

*£000*

| | England | London |
|---|---|---|
| *Magistrates courts costs* | | |
| 2006 | 349,854 | 72,244 |
| 2007 | 360,600 | 66,117 |
| *Administration costs of magistrates courts* | | |
| 2006 | 137,419 | 23,224 |
| 2007 | 119,168 | 19,712 |

## Mohammed Ilyas Khan

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any immigration cases previously adjudicated by *(a)* Mr. Mohammed Ilyas Khan and (b) Judge J have been reopened following the investigation of the Office for Judicial Complaints. [167211]

**Bridget Prentice:** No asylum or immigration appeals adjudicated by Judge Khan or Judge J have been reopened following the investigation by the Office for Judicial Complaints.

### Political Parties: Finance

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much: each registered political party *(a)* spent and *(b)* raised by donation and reported to the Electoral Commission in each year since 2001. [167246]

**Bridget Prentice:** The number of registered political parties in the UK has fluctuated over the period 2001 to 2007. There are currently some 363 registered political parties in the UK.

The information sought is not collected by the Ministry of Justice. The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) requires each registered party to submit annual accounts to the Electoral Commission, the format and content of which varies according to the total income or gross expenditure incurred by a party or accounting unit. Parties are also required to report donations to the Electoral Commission each year. Details of all donations of more than £5,000 accepted by the party HQ and all donations of more than 1,000 accepted by a party accounting unit must be reported.

The parties' donation reports, accounts and campaign expenditure returns are all published by the Commission and are available to view on their website.

### Prison Service

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the Carter and Corston reviews on prison services. [167616]

**Mr. Hanson:** Baroness Corston published her review of women in the criminal justice system on 13 March 2007. The Government have given a broad welcome to the report and are exploring the best way of taking forward the recommendations with all the departments and agencies concerned. We hope to be able to respond in a positive way before Christmas.

Lord Carter of Coles' review is looking at the long-term future of the prison estate and at both the supply and demand of prison places. We look forward to receiving Lord Carter's report once he has reached a conclusion, and will respond in due course.

### Prisoners Release

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners released in *(a)* England and *(b)* London were reconvicted in each year since 1997. [166928]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the available figures for the two-year re-offending rate for adult offenders in England and Wales discharged from prison in the first quarter of each year.

| | *Two year re-offending rate (Percentage)* |
|---|---|
| 2000 | 65 |
| 2002 | 67 |
| 2003 | 66 |
| 2004 | 65 |

Prior to 2000, different data were used to calculate figures on re-offending, and these earlier figures are not comparable. Further information is available in the most recent Statistical Bulletin on adult re-offending which can be found at the Ministry of Justice website:

www.justice.gov.uk

The analysis does not include a breakdown by area.

### Prisoners: Police Cells

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* police cells and *(b)* custody suites in West Chelmsford constituency are occupied by serving prisoners who have been given a custodial sentence. [167066]

**Mr. Hanson:** No police stations in the West Chelmsford constituency are currently being used to hold prisoners under Operation Safeguard.

Prisoners held in police cells under Operation Safeguard are primarily adult male prisoners remanded in custody by the courts.

### Prisoners: Sentencing

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are being held on indeterminate sentences. [167604]

**Mr. Hanson:** At the end of September 2007 there were 9,942 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales. This information is published monthly on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Prisons

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were in prison in each London borough in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many of those in each case were from that borough. [166931]

**Maria Eagle:** There are eight prisons in seven London boroughs. The total numbers of prisoners and the numbers originating from each of these boroughs on 19 September 2007 are shown in the table as follows.

| *London boroughs with prison capacity* | *Total prison population in borough* | *Prison population originating from borough* |
|---|---|---|
| Greenwich | 917 | 95 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,258 | 113 |
| Hounslow | 607 | 28 |
| Islington | 1,635 | 50 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 190 | Less than 10 |
| Lambeth | 807 | 73 |
| Wandsworth | 1,484 | 137 |

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

### Prisons: Overcrowding

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce prison overcrowding. [164694]

**Mr. Hanson:** We have announced a 9,500 capacity-building programme of which 700 new places will be delivered this year and 2,400 in 2008. New accommodation is being brought into use as quickly as possible and we are ensuring that we make the most of existing accommodation.

Lord Carter of Coles is undertaking a review of prisons that will look at options both for increasing supply of prison places and for reducing demand for them. He will report his findings to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Justice Secretary when completed.

### Prisons: Suicide

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many suicide attempts there were in each Welsh prison in each year since 2003. [166179]

**Maria Eagle:** There is no definition of what constitutes an attempted suicide, as it is very difficult to measure suicidal intent, and therefore my Department is unable to provide the data requested. However, the following table gives details of all self-harm incidents and apparently self-inflicted deaths in each Welsh prison from 2003 onwards.

| | Prison | Self-inflicted deaths per prison | Self-harm (SH) incidents per prison[1] | Total SH incidents |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003[2] | Cardiff | 0 | 56 | |
| | Parc | 0 | 326 | |
| | Swansea | 1 | 62 | |
| | Usk/ Prescoed | 0 | 1 | |
| | Total | | | 445 |
| 2004 | Cardiff | 0 | 99 | |
| | Parc | 0 | 251 | |
| | Swansea | 1 | 33 | |
| | Usk/ Prescoed | 0 | 1 | |
| | Total | | | 384 |
| 2005 | Cardiff | 1 | 74 | |
| | Parc | 0 | 368 | |
| | Swansea | 1 | 64 | |
| | Usk/ Prescoed | 0 | 1 | |
| | Total | | | 507 |
| 2006 | Cardiff | 1 | 96 | |
| | Parc | 1 | 285 | |
| | Swansea | 0 | 63 | |
| | Total | | | 444 |
| 2007[3] | Cardiff | 1 | 26 | |
| | Parc | 0 | 163 | |
| | Swansea | 1 | 43 | |
| | Usk/ Prescoed | 0 | 1 | |
| | Total | | | 233 |

[1] It is not possible to measure the number of self harm incidents with absolute precision. The reported numbers of incidents provide useful management information but should not be treated as absolute.
[2] A new system for recording self harm was introduced in December 2002 and as a result the total figures for that year are not directly comparable with later years.
[3] Year to date figure reported on IRS by 31 October 2007.

### Prisons: Visits

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many visitors to prisons were found to be in possession of illegal drugs in each year since 1997; how many such visitors were referred to the police; and what steps were taken in respect of those not referred to the police. [166839]

**Mr. Hanson:** A comprehensive framework is in place for dealing with visitors who seek to smuggle drugs through visits. The number of visitors suspected of involvement in drug smuggling incidents and the action taken internally by prisons along with the number of visitors arrested is detailed in the table.

No record is kept of the number of visitors found to be in possession of illegal drugs but a good indication is the number arrested.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

| | 1999-2000[1] | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Visitors suspected of smuggling drugs | 3,144 | 3,282 | 4,030 | 3,502 | 3,598 | 4,283 | 5,422 | 3,393 |
| Visitors banned | 2,464 | 2,584 | 2,941 | 2,625 | 2,730 | 2,092 | 3,574 | 2,729 |
| Visitors on closed visits | 322 | 333 | 627 | 625 | 528 | 880 | 1,374 | 494 |
| Incidents involving visitor arrests[2] | 735 | 509 | 529 | 405 | 456 | 444 | 440 | 383 |

[1] The first year in which visits ban data became available.
[2] Number of reported drug incidents in which a visitor was suspected of involvement and arrested by police. A particular incident may involve more than one arrest.

## Probation Officers: Greater London

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many full or part-time probation officers there were in the Greater London area in each of the last five years; [166079]

(2) how many full or part-time probation officers in the Greater London area left the service in each of the last five years. [166080]

**Maria Eagle:** Information is not available for the full period requested. Data collected prior to April 2003 were collated by a different source which did not break down the requested data by probation area and are not directly comparable with the more accurate figures collected since that time. Information on leavers was also unavailable for Quarter 1, 2003-04.

The figures presented in the following tables show full-time equivalent (FTE) figures as at 31 December for each year and July 2003 respectively and relate to London Probation Region in its entirety. London Region was formed in 2001 following the merger of Inner London and Greater London Probation Areas.

*Staff in Post in London Region, 2003-06*

| *Job group* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Probation Officer | 1,069.50 | 1,082.41 | 1,077.44 | 1,086.27 |
| Probation Services Officer | 665.50 | 674.23 | 818.33 | 982.93 |
| Other | 775.00 | 641.66 | 661.77 | 787.53 |
| Total Staff in Post | 2,510.00 | 2,398.30 | 2,557.54 | 2,856.73 |

*Leavers in London Region, 2003-06*

| *Job group* | *2003 (Quarters 2-4)* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Probation Officer | 80.00 | 120.40 | 106.90 | 55.50 |
| Probation Services Officer | 25.00 | 45.40 | 67.00 | 44.90 |
| Other | 88.50 | 119.10 | 70.00 | 60.30 |
| Total Leavers | 193.50 | 284.90 | 243.90 | 160.70 |

## Prosecutions: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were prosecuted for selling alcohol to minors in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [167063]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of persons prosecuted for selling alcohol to minors in Essex from 2001 to 2005 is shown in the following table. My Department are unable to provide data for the West Chelmsford constituency, as the data are not held at the required level of detail.

In addition, the offence of sale of alcohol to a person under 18 can attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND) of £80. The offence was added to the scheme on 1 November 2004. Data on the number of PNDs issued in Essex in 2004 and 2005 for the offence are provided in the table. Figures for 2006 will be available shortly.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for offences related to the illegal sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18 in Essex, 2001 to 2005[1, 2, 3, 4]*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Proceeded against | 2 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| Penalty notices for disorder issued | n/a | n/a | n/a | 7 | 120 |

n/a = Not applicable. (The offence was added to the Penalty Notices for Disorder scheme on 1 November 2004).

[1] Prosecutions data are provided on the principal offence basis. PND data are a count on PND tickets issued.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Covers offences under the following statutes. The Licensing Act 1964 S.169 A & B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1, the Licensing Act 1964 S.181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S.17 and the Licensing Act 2003 S.146 and 147, which came into effect from 24 November 2005, so data prior to 2005 is not available.

[4] PND data covers the offence of sale of alcohol to persons under 18 under the Licensing act 2003 S.126.

*Source:*
RDS, court proceedings database, Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

## Prosecutions: Fireworks

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions there were for firework-related offences in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2006. [167694]

**Maria Eagle:** Data showing the number of defendants found guilty of firework-related offences in England and Wales from 2003 to 2005 are in table A.

In addition, under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) can be issued for a number of offences: throwing fireworks in a thoroughfare under the Explosives Act 1875 and breach of the fireworks curfew, possession of category 4 fireworks, and possession by a person under 18 of an adult firework under the Fireworks Act 2003. The offences attract a fixed penalty of 80. Data on the number of PNDs issued for these offences in England and Wales in 2004 and 2005 are provided in table B. Data for 2006 will be available shortly.

*Table A: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected offences related to fireworks, England and Wales, 2003-05[1, 2]*

| | | | *Found guilty* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
| 11300 | Control of gunpowder, safety fuses and other explosives. Manufacture and keeping of gunpowder and other explosives a). Summary only. Offences in relation to explosives, firearms, etc. Restriction relating to the manufacturing of fireworks. | Emergency Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 S.3 orders made under. Explosives Act 1875 (except S80 and orders in council and rules thereunder). Explosives Act 1923 and order in council and rules thereunder. Fireworks Act 1951. | 10 | 24 | 20 |

*Table A: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected offences related to fireworks, England and Wales, 2003-05*[1, 2]

| | Offence description | Principal statute | Found guilty 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12301 | Throwing, casting or firing any fireworks in or into any highway, street, etc. public place. | Explosives Act 1875, Sec 80 | 36 | 55 | 26 |
| 13809 | Knowingly or recklessly making a statement which is false in a material particular when a requirement to give information is imposed by or under fireworks regulations. | Fireworks Act 2003 S.11 (3)(a)(b),(4) | — | — | — |
| 19601 | Contravening a prohibition imposed by fireworks regulations. | Fireworks Act 2003 S.11(1)(4) | — | 8 | 66 |
| 19602 | Failure to comply with a requirement imposed in or under fireworks regulations to give or not give information. | Fireworks Act 2003 s. 11 (2)(4) | — | — | 3 |
| | | | 48 | 87 | 120 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

*Table B: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued for fireworks offences in England and Wales, 2004 and 2005*[1, 2]

| | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|
| Throwing fireworks | 177 | 642 |
| Breach of fireworks curfew | 12 | 33 |
| Possession of a Category 4 firework | 12 | 13 |
| Possession by under 18 of adult firework | 20 | 47 |
| Total | 221 | 735 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] These offences became part of the Penalty Notice for Disorder scheme on 1 November 2004, data for 2003 are therefore not available.
*Source:*
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

## Victims: Compensation

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 298W, on victims' surcharge, which organisations and schemes have received funding from the proceeds of the victims' surcharge. [167634]

**Maria Eagle:** For this introductory year of its operation the Department has included the receipts from the victims surcharge, as an appropriation in aid, in its estimates for 2007-08. Under spending plans, parliamentary approved expenditure will be committed to the Crown Prosecution Service to support 165 witness service schemes under the No Witness No Justice initiative, to Victim Support for enhanced services to victims of crime, and for grants to organisations and schemes in the following list.

*Organisations and schemes to be supported*

*Victims' Fund Grants (helping victims of sexual crime)*

Bradford Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Survivors Service
CIC'ters
Colchester Rape Crisis Line
Coventry Rape Crisis
Crisis Point
Derbyshire Rape Crisis
Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre
Galop
Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis
HEAL
Lilith Project
Manchester Rape Crisis
New Pathways
No Limits
Northamptonshire Rape and Incest Crisis
Nottingham Rape Crisis
One-in-Four
Plymouth Rape and Sexual Abuse Line
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (North Wales)
Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (Winchester)
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre Cheshire and Merseyside
Redcar and Cleveland Women's Aid
Respond
Sexual Abuse and Incest Line (SAIL)
Sexual and Domestic Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre
Sheffield Women's Counselling and Therapy Service
South Essex Rape and Crisis Centre
Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre
Step Forward
Survivors Network
Survivors Swindon
Survivors UK
The Rape and Sexual Abuse Violence Project (Birmingham)
Twelve's Company
VOICE UK
Walsall Street Teams (The Jigsaw Project)
WomanKind (Bristol Women's Therapy Centre)
Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Cornwall
Women's Support Network
Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre

*Organisations supporting victims of Homicide*

Barnardos

Greater Manchester police

North England Victims Association

South Yorkshire Police

Support After Murder and Manslaughter

The Child Bereavement Trust

Victim Support and Witness Service Teesside

Victim Support Bedfordshire

Victim Support London

Victims of Crime Trust

West Yorkshire police

Winston's Wish

*Organisations supporting victims of hate crime*

Bedfordshire Hate Crime Partnership

BMEYPP

Bradford Hate Crime Alliance

Gender Identity Research and Education Society

Greenwich Action Committee Against Racist Attacks

Hounslow Community Safety Partnership

Inclusion North

Kirklees Safer Communities Partnership

Northamptonshire Hate Crime Forum

Partnership Community Safety Team

Rochdale Metropolitan borough council

STONEWALL

The Intercom Trust

Victim Support and Witness Services Greater Manchester

Victim Support Kent

*Services supporting Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs)*

*Government office region:*

*London region:*

Advance (Hammersmith and Fulham); Women's Trust IDVA Service (Kensington and Chelsea—West London

SDVC

Croydon Women's Aid—Croydon SDVC

London Domestic Violence Co-Ordinating Group (will be making allocations)

Victim Support—Brent SDVC

*Eastern region:*

Bedfordshire IDA Advisors

Cambridgeshire IDV Advocacy Service—Huntingdon

Essex Probation Service—Essex SDVC

Leeway Women's Aid—Norwich SDVC

Luton Independent IDA Advisors

Peterborough city council—Peterborough SDVC

Suffolk county council—Ipswich SDVC

Sunflower Centre—Watford

*East Midlands region:*

Derby CSP—Derby SDVC

Leicester DVIRP—Loughborough

Lincoln Women's Aid—West Lines, Lincoln and Grantham

Mansfield and Ashfield Women's Aid—Mansfield

Multi agency IDVA service—Chesterfield

Northampton and Northern Sunflower Centres—Northants

Women's Aid Advice Centre—Nottingham SDVC

West Midlands region:

Arch N Staffs—N Staffs SDVC

Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid—Birmingham and Solihull SDVCs

Coventry Haven—Coventry SDVC

Shropshire IDVA Service—Shrewsbury, N Shrops, Oswestry

SOADA—Sandwell SDVC

Stafford Women's Aid—Cannock Stafford SDVCs

Stonham—Bromsgrove and Redditch, S Worcs, Kidderminster SDVC

Stonham—SE Staffs (Burton) SDVC

Telford IDVA—Telford

Victim Support—Dudley SDVC

Walsall DV Forum—Walsall SDVC

Wolverhampton DV Forum—Wolverhampton SDVC

Yorkshire and Humberside region:

Calderdale DV Forum—Calderdale

DV Services Keighley—Bingley/Bradford

ER Yorks council/DVAP—East Riding SDVC

HALT—Leeds SDVC

Hull city council/DA Partnership—Hull SDVC

Its My Right and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis—Scunthorpe, Grimsby (and Cleethorpes)

N Yorks Victim Support—Scarborough and Ryedale SDVC

Rotherham Women's Aid—Rotherham

Safe@home—Wakefield

Safer Doncaster Partnership—Doncaster SDVC

Service TBC—York and Selby

Sheffield DA Forum—Sheffield SDVC

Victim S

*South East region:*

Berkshire Women's Aid (Reading, Newbury, Maidenhead)

Brighton and Hove IDVA Service

County Council Community Safety DV Team (West Sussex: Worthing, Crawley)

CRI Domestic Abuse Service (East Sussex: Hastings, Eastbourne, Lewes and Crowborough)

Early Intervention Project—Portsmouth SDVC

East Berkshire Women's Aid (High Wycombe, Maidenhead)

Island Women's Refuge (Isle of Wight)

Milton Keynes Women's Aid

Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse (N Oxford—Banbury, Oxford)

Refuge Kent DV Advocacy Service (Kent: Canterbury, Shepway, Ashford, Dover, Thanet)

Southampton IDVA Service

Victim Support Hampshire and Isle of Wight—NW Hants (Andover) SDVC

Victim Support, NE Hants (Alton) SDVC

*South West region:*

Bristol DA IDVA Consortium—Bristol

Exeter Women's Aid—Exeter SDVC

Family Matters—E Dorset (Bournemouth and Poole) SDVC; W Dorset (Weymouth) SDVC

Gloucs DV Support and Advocacy Project—Cheltenham SDVC

IDVA Service—E and mid-West Cornwall (Bodmin and Truro)

N Devon Women's Aid—Barnstable

Plymouth Women's Aid—Plymouth SDVC

S Devon Women's Aid—Torbay

Service TBC—North Somerset
Somerset Change—Sedgemoor (Bridgewater) and S Somerset (Yeovil) SDVC
Southside Family Project—Bath SW Region
Survive—N Avon (Yate) SDVC
Victim Support Wilts—Chippenham and Swindon

*North East region:*

County Durham and Darlington—Durham SDVC
My Sisters Place—Teesside (Cleveland) SDVC
North Tees Women's Aid (Stockton)
Wearside Women in Need—Sunderland

*North West region:*

Blackburn and Darwen District Women's Aid—Blackburn with Darwen SDVC
Blackpool and Fylde IDVA Service
Blackpool Advocacy Service—Blackpool and Fylde
Cheshire county council—Chester SDVC
Chorley and S Ribble Service
Community Safety Team—Wirral SDVC
DV Family Safety Unit, Crewe Eastern Cheshire
IDV Advocacy Service—Manchester
Impact Housing Association—Carlisle SDVC
Knowsley DV Support Service—Knowsley SDVC
Lancaster and District Women's Aid
MAPS Team—Burnley (Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale), SDVC
Preston Independent DA Service
Salford Women's Aid—Salford SDVC
Service TBC—Sefton SDVC
Star Centre—Rossendale (Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale) SDVC
The Relationship Centre—Halton SDVC
Victim Support, West (Workington and Whitehaven) and South Cumbria (Barrow and Kendal)
Warrington DA Support Services
WAVE—Wigan SDVC
Worst Kept Secret—Liverpool SDVC

*Wales region:*

Bridgend Women's Aid—Bridgend SDVC
Caerphilly CBC, Blaenau Gwent DA Service—Caerphilly SDVC
Cardiff Women's Safety Unit—Cardiff SDVC
Carmarthenshire IDAA Service—Llanelli
DA Resource Team—Merthyr Tydfil
Monmouthshire county council—Gwent (Cwmbran) SDVC
Neath Women's Aid—Neath Port Talbot SDVC
Newport city council—Gwent (Newport) SDVC
Pontypridd Safety Unit—Rhondda Cynon Taff SDVC
Service TBC—Barry, Vale of Glamorgan
Swansea Women's Aid/BAWSO—Swansea SDVC
Tai Hafan—Pembrokeshire—Haverford west SDVC
Tai Hafan—Wrexham SDVC
Torfaen county borough council—Gwent (Torfaen) SDVC
Women's Aid and Cymdeithas Tai Hafan—Llandudno/ Prestatyn

### Young Offender Institutions

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offender institutions there are in England; and how many places those institutions provide. [168309]

**Mr. Hanson:** There are 20 establishments in England that only hold remanded or sentenced 18 to 21-year-olds and/or under 18-year-olds.

| *Establishment* | *Operational capacity*[1] |
|---|---|
| Ashfield | 400 |
| Aylesbury | 444 |
| Brinsford | 489 |
| Castington | 410 |
| Cookham Wood | 17 |
| Deerbolt | 452 |
| Feltham | 762 |
| Glen Parva | 808 |
| Hindley | 539 |
| Huntercombe | 365 |
| Lancaster Farms | 527 |
| Northallerton | 252 |
| Portland | 557 |
| Reading | 287 |
| Rochester | 392 |
| Stoke Heath | 632 |
| Thorn Cross | 321 |
| Warren Hill | 222 |
| Werrington | 162 |
| Wetherby | 384 |
| Total | 8,422 |

[1] Operational capacity describes the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime.

There are also a number of young offender units within adult establishments. All women young offenders are held in accommodation designated for young offenders within adult women's prisons.

### Young Offenders

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 17 year olds were on remand in each year since 1997 in each police authority area; and how many went on to serve a prison sentence. [166969]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table shows the number of 15, 16 and 17-year-olds held on remand in all prison establishments in England and Wales since 1997.

*As at 30 June each year*

| *Males and Females* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Aged 15* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Untried | 46 | 48 | 29 | 35 | 41 | 33 | 29 | 37 | 38 | 32 | 38 |
| Convicted unsentenced | 28 | 38 | 15 | 16 | 7 | 26 | 8 | 15 | 14 | 27 | 25 |

| Males and Females | As at 30 June each year | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| *Aged 16* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Untried | 114 | 100 | 106 | 82 | 69 | 99 | 81 | 74 | 78 | 98 | 98 |
| Convicted unsentenced | 57 | 83 | 49 | 32 | 29 | 55 | 40 | 44 | 43 | 36 | 35 |
| *Aged 17* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Untried | 308 | 294 | 298 | 255 | 195 | 188 | 218 | 221 | 221 | 250 | 239 |
| Convicted unsentenced | 253 | 214 | 215 | 154 | 117 | 117 | 96 | 119 | 92 | 130 | 109 |

The figures are not broken down by area because the numbers are small and the accuracy at this level of detail cannot be guaranteed.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Data are not held centrally to identify how many of the 15-17 year olds went on to serve a prison sentence. However, data collected from the courts show that 50 per cent. of those remanded in custody go on to receive a custodial sentence (data published in table 4.8 of Criminal Statistics 2005, and website www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many re-convictions of young offenders there were in each police authority area in each year since 1997; and what percentage this represents of all young offenders in each year since 1997. [167019]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on re-offending by juveniles by police force area is not currently available. Figures for re-offending by juveniles have been published for 2000, 2004 and 2005 for England and Wales, but the data sets used do not enable analysis by police force area.

Prior to 2000, a different data source and methodology was used to calculate figures on juvenile re-offending, and these earlier figures are not comparable This is discussed in more detail and the most recent figures on juvenile re-offending can be found in "Re-offending of juveniles: results from the 2005 cohort" which can be found online at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/reoffending-juveniles2005.pdf

## Young Offenders: Sentencing

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 17-year-olds were given custodial sentences in each police force area in each year since 1997; and what average length of sentence was given to each group in each year. [167103]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is contained in the following tables.

Figures for 2006 will be published in mid-December.

*Table 1: Persons aged 15 to 17 sentenced to immediate custody by police force area and age, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005*

*Number of persons*

| Police force area | 1997 | | | 1998 | | | 1999 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Age 15 | Age 16 | Age 17 | Age 15 | Age 16 | Age 17 | Age 15 | Age 16 | Age 17 |
| Avon and Somerset | 11 | 30 | 55 | 9 | 26 | 48 | 2 | 21 | 45 |
| Bedfordshire | 23 | 30 | 55 | 21 | 63 | 47 | 23 | 41 | 52 |
| Cambridgeshire | 13 | 21 | 45 | 8 | 25 | 44 | 15 | 28 | 48 |
| Cheshire | 13 | 41 | 58 | 18 | 29 | 60 | 21 | 27 | 63 |
| City of London | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | 24 | 50 | 73 | 19 | 30 | 77 | 17 | 30 | 66 |
| Cumbria | 15 | 23 | 28 | 10 | 17 | 35 | 16 | 16 | 38 |
| Derbyshire | 19 | 34 | 46 | 23 | 35 | 56 | 26 | 44 | 79 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 19 | 37 | 49 | 7 | 31 | 66 | 13 | 17 | 59 |
| Dorset | 4 | 12 | 28 | 5 | 13 | 32 | 15 | 16 | 30 |
| Durham | 18 | 36 | 41 | 20 | 31 | 67 | 30 | 54 | 67 |
| Essex | 30 | 65 | 91 | 19 | 62 | 112 | 26 | 37 | 83 |
| Gloucestershire | 2 | 4 | 43 | 7 | 4 | 26 | 3 | 10 | 24 |
| Greater Manchester | 90 | 182 | 316 | 94 | 182 | 290 | 117 | 185 | 280 |
| Hampshire | 23 | 33 | 85 | 22 | 66 | 73 | 41 | 93 | 120 |
| Hertfordshire | 9 | 14 | 37 | 6 | 13 | 26 | 5 | 18 | 34 |
| Humberside | 20 | 52 | 77 | 33 | 46 | 87 | 20 | 57 | 91 |
| Kent | 27 | 67 | 74 | 31 | 78 | 105 | 24 | 45 | 77 |
| Lancashire | 30 | 76 | 120 | 31 | 65 | 113 | 27 | 78 | 104 |
| Leicestershire | 56 | 72 | 100 | 26 | 63 | 110 | 28 | 69 | 95 |
| Lincolnshire | — | 10 | 46 | 6 | 9 | 29 | 10 | 4 | 30 |
| Merseyside | 34 | 64 | 112 | 24 | 67 | 115 | 30 | 74 | 83 |
| Metropolitan Police | 174 | 311 | 544 | 166 | 316 | 494 | 151 | 329 | 513 |
| Norfolk | 4 | 5 | 20 | 7 | 9 | 23 | 7 | 20 | 29 |

*Table 1: Persons aged 15 to 17 sentenced to immediate custody by police force area and age, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005*

*Number of persons*

| | 1997 | | | 1998 | | | 1999 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* |
| North Yorkshire | 12 | 28 | 36 | 10 | 23 | 38 | 15 | 22 | 56 |
| Northamptonshire | 2 | 11 | 38 | 8 | 25 | 39 | 8 | 29 | 48 |
| Northumbria | 51 | 121 | 141 | 47 | 105 | 171 | 41 | 102 | 190 |
| Nottinghamshire | 42 | 72 | 125 | 37 | 76 | 113 | 43 | 64 | 120 |
| South Yorkshire | 53 | 67 | 133 | 41 | 59 | 124 | 20 | 56 | 110 |
| Staffordshire | 16 | 26 | 69 | 17 | 32 | 59 | 17 | 45 | 71 |
| Suffolk | 3 | 16 | 23 | 8 | 11 | 28 | 7 | 23 | 45 |
| Surrey | 7 | 17 | 16 | 6 | 16 | 19 | — | 10 | 17 |
| Sussex | 9 | 43 | 63 | 10 | 56 | 70 | 14 | 28 | 63 |
| Thames Valley | 8 | 43 | 80 | 14 | 47 | 73 | 12 | 38 | 83 |
| Warwickshire | 9 | 12 | 23 | 3 | 9 | 19 | 11 | 15 | 24 |
| West Mercia | 12 | 28 | 50 | 8 | 37 | 50 | 12 | 33 | 70 |
| West Midlands | 97 | 200 | 332 | 94 | 208 | 335 | 103 | 220 | 358 |
| West Yorkshire | 61 | 98 | 190 | 58 | 105 | 183 | 79 | 131 | 236 |
| Wiltshire | 1 | 14 | 20 | 9 | 12 | 18 | 5 | 19 | 25 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 3 | 9 | 19 | 5 | 3 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 24 |
| Gwent | 3 | 17 | 39 | 19 | 29 | 53 | 18 | 32 | 46 |
| North Wales | 6 | 11 | 31 | 7 | 13 | 31 | 14 | 19 | 36 |
| South Wales | 40 | 68 | 117 | 59 | 96 | 128 | 55 | 106 | 153 |
| England and Wales | 1,093 | 2,170 | 3,690 | 1,072 | 2,242 | 3,712 | 1,144 | 2,308 | 3,885 |

*Number of persons*

| | 2000 | | | 2001 | | | 2002 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* |
| Avon and Somerset | 11 | 23 | 50 | 15 | 28 | 42 | 26 | 30 | 58 |
| Bedfordshire | 18 | 20 | 40 | 14 | 17 | 44 | 19 | 24 | 24 |
| Cambridgeshire | 13 | 20 | 40 | 15 | 30 | 28 | 7 | 23 | 34 |
| Cheshire | 19 | 30 | 56 | 16 | 36 | 58 | 15 | 27 | 51 |
| City of London | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | 22 | 33 | 62 | 15 | 22 | 41 | 12 | 33 | 47 |
| Cumbria | 16 | 20 | 35 | 18 | 33 | 38 | 15 | 25 | 23 |
| Derbyshire | 21 | 34 | 46 | 19 | 38 | 46 | 14 | 40 | 76 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 3 | 15 | 27 | 7 | 11 | 19 | 6 | 9 | 11 |
| Dorset | 10 | 13 | 20 | 5 | 7 | 19 | 14 | 13 | 29 |
| Durham | 13 | 32 | 52 | 13 | 28 | 42 | 12 | 23 | 30 |
| Essex | 30 | 49 | 59 | 31 | 63 | 104 | 37 | 57 | 95 |
| Gloucestershire | 6 | 16 | 36 | 6 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 8 |
| Greater Manchester | 127 | 170 | 275 | 128 | 220 | 287 | 113 | 190 | 238 |
| Hampshire | 59 | 72 | 111 | 34 | 53 | 90 | 47 | 55 | 86 |
| Hertfordshire | 3 | 23 | 48 | 13 | 18 | 34 | 13 | 23 | 44 |
| Humberside | 21 | 31 | 50 | 39 | 40 | 60 | 15 | 35 | 59 |
| Kent | 32 | 42 | 64 | 42 | 55 | 88 | 29 | 33 | 77 |
| Lancashire | 31 | 59 | 100 | 37 | 56 | 87 | 41 | 75 | 97 |
| Leicestershire | 30 | 50 | 86 | 47 | 46 | 77 | 25 | 45 | 94 |
| Lincolnshire | 3 | 9 | 29 | 3 | 19 | 33 | 12 | 15 | 17 |
| Merseyside | 44 | 81 | 113 | 49 | 83 | 124 | 32 | 74 | 94 |
| Metropolitan Police | 173 | 328 | 502 | 177 | 344 | 464 | 184 | 371 | 532 |
| Norfolk | 7 | 19 | 20 | 13 | 13 | 22 | 5 | 17 | 15 |
| North Yorkshire | 13 | 26 | 53 | 17 | 19 | 44 | 6 | 16 | 25 |
| Northamptonshire | 12 | 8 | 33 | 3 | 24 | 16 | 10 | 18 | 34 |
| Northumbria | 35 | 63 | 128 | 33 | 81 | 117 | 40 | 68 | 86 |
| Nottinghamshire | 42 | 55 | 115 | 49 | 50 | 87 | 47 | 72 | 98 |
| South Yorkshire | 43 | 67 | 100 | 36 | 58 | 85 | 33 | 55 | 99 |
| Staffordshire | 4 | 44 | 51 | 42 | 34 | 66 | 23 | 38 | 69 |
| Suffolk | 6 | 13 | 32 | 4 | 12 | 19 | 7 | 9 | 20 |
| Surrey | 1 | 13 | 16 | 10 | 13 | 25 | 4 | 9 | 20 |
| Sussex | 11 | 27 | 61 | 22 | 35 | 66 | 22 | 35 | 48 |

*Number of persons*

| Police force area | 2000 Age 15 | 2000 Age 16 | 2000 Age 17 | 2001 Age 15 | 2001 Age 16 | 2001 Age 17 | 2002 Age 15 | 2002 Age 16 | 2002 Age 17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thames Valley | 34 | 61 | 98 | 25 | 61 | 87 | 26 | 53 | 117 |
| Warwickshire | 11 | 8 | 39 | 9 | 13 | 23 | 9 | 16 | 29 |
| West Mercia | 23 | 32 | 56 | 23 | 42 | 63 | 18 | 37 | 53 |
| West Midlands | 112 | 217 | 332 | 151 | 231 | 345 | 145 | 255 | 318 |
| West Yorkshire | 69 | 113 | 169 | 53 | 139 | 181 | 82 | 129 | 160 |
| Wiltshire | 5 | 15 | 30 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 11 | 15 | 17 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 1 | 11 | 17 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 7 |
| Gwent | 8 | 18 | 32 | 5 | 13 | 21 | 6 | 12 | 17 |
| North Wales | 7 | 28 | 30 | 23 | 18 | 29 | 13 | 27 | 27 |
| South Wales | 55 | 92 | 147 | 71 | 89 | 96 | 45 | 91 | 127 |
| England and Wales | 1,204 | 2,100 | 3,460 | 1,345 | 2,220 | 3,251 | 1,258 | 2,217 | 3,210 |

*Number of persons*

| Police force area | 2003 Age 15 | 2003 Age 16 | 2003 Age 17 | 2004 Age 15 | 2004 Age 16 | 2004 Age 17 | 2005 Age 15 | 2005 Age 16 | 2005 Age 17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 12 | 39 | 47 | 11 | 32 | 58 | 12 | 24 | 39 |
| Bedfordshire | 8 | 25 | 30 | 15 | 24 | 43 | 15 | 32 | 41 |
| Cambridgeshire | 15 | 30 | 48 | 7 | 23 | 39 | 14 | 13 | 23 |
| Cheshire | 14 | 50 | 42 | 15 | 19 | 48 | 22 | 42 | 78 |
| City of London | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | 10 | 26 | 41 | 15 | 17 | 33 | 8 | 28 | 29 |
| Cumbria | 12 | 14 | 23 | 10 | 18 | 38 | 6 | 18 | 19 |
| Derbyshire | 21 | 23 | 51 | 21 | 24 | 39 | 19 | 34 | 46 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 6 | 12 | 13 |
| Dorset | 10 | 11 | 16 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 6 | 11 | 21 |
| Durham | 13 | 23 | 31 | 6 | 15 | 25 | 10 | 19 | 31 |
| Essex | 40 | 46 | 78 | 25 | 66 | 84 | 28 | 48 | 63 |
| Gloucestershire | 3 | 17 | 17 | 11 | 11 | 29 | 12 | 16 | 20 |
| Greater Manchester | 90 | 148 | 218 | 106 | 155 | 236 | 74 | 158 | 230 |
| Hampshire | 22 | 41 | 67 | 33 | 59 | 79 | 30 | 47 | 81 |
| Hertfordshire | 12 | 24 | 34 | 7 | 17 | 43 | 14 | 39 | 32 |
| Humberside | 19 | 36 | 68 | 47 | 55 | 46 | 34 | 46 | 69 |
| Kent | 23 | 39 | 62 | 16 | 29 | 48 | 15 | 42 | 65 |
| Lancashire | 35 | 46 | 70 | 35 | 46 | 69 | 25 | 47 | 91 |
| Leicestershire | 22 | 34 | 72 | 17 | 38 | 60 | 15 | 28 | 42 |
| Lincolnshire | 3 | 18 | 31 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 9 | 4 | 15 |
| Merseyside | 43 | 59 | 123 | 34 | 63 | 103 | 44 | 66 | 100 |
| Metropolitan Police | 163 | 237 | 374 | 163 | 275 | 432 | 146 | 270 | 387 |
| Norfolk | 9 | 6 | 23 | 2 | 10 | 21 | 8 | 6 | 20 |
| North Yorkshire | 8 | 10 | 30 | 7 | 10 | 24 | 6 | 21 | 21 |
| Northamptonshire | 4 | 11 | 21 | 7 | 16 | 33 | 8 | 6 | 12 |
| Northumbria | 27 | 51 | 75 | 28 | 35 | 62 | 21 | 51 | 58 |
| Nottinghamshire | 42 | 59 | 100 | 28 | 68 | 75 | 42 | 60 | 97 |
| South Yorkshire | 28 | 47 | 100 | 26 | 52 | 85 | 20 | 52 | 105 |
| Staffordshire | 19 | 33 | 52 | 17 | 30 | 59 | 20 | 29 | 45 |
| Suffolk | 5 | 14 | 26 | 15 | 24 | 26 | 18 | 16 | 31 |
| Surrey | 4 | 25 | 11 | 3 | 11 | 22 | 8 | 15 | 13 |
| Sussex | 21 | 43 | 29 | 15 | 30 | 36 | 17 | 22 | 56 |
| Thames Valley | 22 | 33 | 66 | 13 | 29 | 64 | 9 | 27 | 61 |
| Warwickshire | 1 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 10 | 18 |
| West Mercia | 11 | 29 | 44 | 22 | 26 | 58 | 14 | 35 | 47 |
| West Midlands | 112 | 167 | 265 | 131 | 191 | 275 | 93 | 164 | 234 |
| West Yorkshire | 60 | 113 | 169 | 79 | 115 | 168 | 70 | 143 | 135 |
| Wiltshire | 5 | 16 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 23 | 3 | 14 | 9 |
| Dyfed-Powys | — | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 12 |
| Gwent | 10 | 23 | 25 | 17 | 23 | 53 | 20 | 25 | 27 |

*Number of persons*

| Police force area | 2003 | | | 2004 | | | 2005 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* |
| North Wales | 17 | 25 | 32 | 8 | 22 | 42 | 16 | 20 | 38 |
| South Wales | 47 | 64 | 106 | 33 | 78 | 111 | 29 | 62 | 94 |
| England and Wales | 1,046 | 1,770 | 2,762 | 1,073 | 1,799 | 2,853 | 995 | 1,825 | 2,668 |

*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

*Table 2: Average determinate custodial sentence length1 for persons aged 15 to 17 sentenced to immediate custody by police force area and age, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005*

*Average custodial sentence length*

| Police force area | 1997 | | | 1998 | | | 1999 | | | 2000 | | | 2001 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* |
| Avon and Somerset | 16.2 | 9.3 | 8.0 | 9.3 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 4.0 | 10.9 | 8.7 | 5.9 | 9.9 | 7.2 | 8.5 | 13.0 | 8.0 |
| Bedfordshire | 6.7 | 6.9 | 5.0 | 11.5 | 6.1 | 7.9 | 7.2 | 8.7 | 7.2 | 4.6 | 16.8 | 9.8 | 10.1 | 7.2 | 13.1 |
| Cambridgeshire | 8.5 | 135 | 11.7 | 10.1 | 7.9 | 9.8 | 5.1 | 5.5 | 7.9 | 11.5 | 11.6 | 11.5 | 9.9 | 11.8 | 8.7 |
| Cheshire | 11.1 | 6.6 | 9.2 | 7.7 | 11.8 | 11.1 | 5.3 | 9.0 | 8.0 | 6.9 | 10.7 | 9.7 | 7.6 | 7.8 | 7.6 |
| City of London | — | — | 18.0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | 7.1 | 11.2 | 10.3 | 8.4 | 6.7 | 10.3 | 3.9 | 9.0 | 8.4 | 10.8 | 10.5 | 9.0 | 8.3 | 8.7 | 7.6 |
| Cumbria | 3.5 | 4.7 | 8.4 | 10.9 | 6.4 | 5.0 | 13.4 | 5.5 | 6.2 | 4.9 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 6.1 | 7.3 | 7.2 |
| Derbyshire | 8.7 | 8.3 | 11.1 | 12.3 | 10.1 | 7.7 | 11.5 | 10.8 | 10.1 | 8.2 | 8.6 | 8.0 | 8.7 | 7.2 | 10.2 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 10.1 | 7.4 | 11.4 | 14.3 | 5.9 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 9.5 | 6.9 | 6.3 | 7.3 | 6.8 | 17.4 | 14.5 | 22.8 |
| Dorset | 3.2 | 5.1 | 9.6 | 6.8 | 7.2 | 12.8 | 3.2 | 4.7 | 5.5 | 6.8 | 4.5 | 6.9 | 12.0 | 5.1 | 6.8 |
| Durham | 5.9 | 9.3 | 8.6 | 6.2 | 7.4 | 8.7 | 3.1 | 3.7 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 9.3 | 9.1 | 6.5 | 7.1 | 9.7 |
| Essex | 9.5 | 5.3 | 7.4 | 6.9 | 4.3 | 6.7 | 5.6 | 4.8 | 6.5 | 5.5 | 6.7 | 8.2 | 7.6 | 8.3 | 8.6 |
| Gloucestershire | 2.0 | 3.5 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 5.4 | 2.3 | 5.5 | 6.4 | 17.0 | 5.0 | 9.1 | 7.0 | 8.3 | 7.7 |
| Greater Manchester | 9.6 | 7.9 | 10.7 | 8.9 | 10.2 | 9.1 | 7.4 | 9.3 | 9.1 | 8.3 | 9.1 | 11.2 | 9.0 | 10.1 | 11.1 |
| Hampshire | 12.6 | 12.9 | 10.1 | 7.7 | 4.1 | 7.5 | 8.7 | 6.3 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 7.7 | 7.4 |
| Hertfordshire | 12.0 | 10.4 | 6.8 | 21.2 | 7.6 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 7.6 | 10.4 | 4.0 | 8.2 | 13.8 | 9.7 | 11.6 | 9.5 |
| Humberside | 6.4 | 9.6 | 7.5 | 6.9 | 8.8 | 9.3 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 9.8 | 11.1 | 10.7 | 11.4 | 9.1 | 9.0 | 8.0 |
| Kent | 9.1 | 8.0 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 6.4 | 6.1 | 4.6 | 6.1 | 7.4 | 12.0 | 7.5 | 9.3 | 6.1 | 9.7 | 7.3 |
| Lancashire | 14.6 | 7.9 | 7.7 | 8.0 | 8.1 | 6.9 | 11.6 | 8.3 | 11.2 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 8.7 | 8.9 | 8.1 | 9.3 |
| Leicestershire | 6.9 | 8.7 | 9.0 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 5.0 | 8.8 | 13.4 | 9.1 | 8.4 | 10.7 | 5.7 | 7.1 | 10.9 |
| Lincolnshire | — | 6.4 | 8.3 | 4.3 | 3.7 | 7.5 | 17.6 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 17.3 | 6.7 | 8.1 | 19.3 | 7.0 | 7.8 |
| Merseyside | 7.1 | 8.4 | 8.6 | 4.2 | 7.1 | 8.4 | 4.2 | 6.8 | 6.2" | 6.6 | 9.2 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 7.4 | 8.4 |
| Metropolitan Police | 16.5 | 15.5 | 13.1 | 9.1 | 11.3 | 12.0 | 9.9 | 9.9 | 11.9 | 9.4 | 11.5 | 12.3 | 8.6 | 11.6 | 11.0 |
| Norfolk | 3.8 | 10.0 | 9.2 | 5.8 | 3.0 | 8.6 | 2.9 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 4.6 | 7.5 | 9.5 | 5.1 | 5.5 | 6.5 |
| North Yorkshire | 7.0 | 4.5 | 6.2 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 8.8 | 8.3 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 7.4 | 6.3 | 8.0 | 12.6 | 10.8 | 11.7 |
| Northamptonshire | 5.0 | 5.5 | 8.4 | 7.9 | 10.6 | 8.3 | 7.2 | 8.1 | 8.9 | 5.8 | 13.0 | 11.5 | 4.7 | 20.3 | 16.6 |
| Northumbria | 6.1 | 10.0 | 9.7 | 4.5 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 4.4 | 7.1 | 7.6 | 9.3 | 8.3 | 9.8 | 9.9 | 10.2 | 10.5 |
| Nottinghamshire | 11.5 | 12.1 | 12.2 | 11.1 | 15.8 | 12.0 | 9.2 | 11.7 | 10.8 | 8.2 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 10.0 | 7.8 | 12.2 |
| South Yorkshire | 10.9 | 10.4 | 10.8 | 8.4 | 9.9 | 11.2 | 10.7 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 10.9 | 10.2 | 10.1 | 11.7 | 12.7 | 12.0 |
| Staffordshire | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.8 | 4.5 | 9.8 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 6.7 | 7.3 | 19.0 | 9.8 | 10.9 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 9.8 |
| Suffolk | 20.0 | 6.5 | 8.8 | 8.5 | 4.2 | 12.0 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 7.7 | 8.0 | 10.6 | 9.9 | 5.5 | 12.0 | 9.9 |
| Surrey | 18.4 | 19.0 | 20.0 | 4.5 | 8.2 | 5.8 | — | 3.4 | 13.0 | 4.0 | 6.1 | 7.9 | 5.2 | 10.5 | 5.8 |
| Sussex | 4.7 | 6.2 | 7.8 | 2.8 | 6.1 | 7.2 | 11.6 | 11.0 | 8.7 | 5.9 | 11.3 | 11.2 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 8.6 |
| Thames Valley | 4.8 | 9.1 | 9.0 | 3.4 | 6.8 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 8.9 | 10.4 | 5.5 | 8.6 | 9.5 | 8.8 | 9.9 | 9.5 |
| Warwickshire | 4.4 | 6.5 | 8.2 | 2.3 | 10.9 | 12.3 | 7.6 | 7.9 | 10.5 | 7.6 | 5.5 | 13.3 | 14.2 | 10.8 | 17.1 |
| West Mercia | 8.6 | 11.6 | 14.3 | 6.4 | 10.0 | 11.1 | 7.2 | 8.4 | 9.2 | 7.5 | 10.8 | 12.9 | 7.0 | 7.9 | 10.3 |
| West Midlands | 10.1 | 8.6 | 9.8 | 9.8 | 9.9 | 10.2 | 8.0 | 8.8 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 10.7 | 8.5 | 9.3 | 9.8 |
| West Yorkshire | 9.4 | 10.0 | 9.2 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 10.7 | 8.9 | 8.2 | 10.3 | 8.5 | 12.1 | 11.0 | 8.4 | 10.4 | 11.9 |
| Wiltshire | 2.0 | 15.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 2.6 | 8.6 | 6.7 | 12.4 | 8.3 | 10.8 | 12.4 | 6.8 | 8.4 |

*Table 2: Average determinate custodial sentence length1 for persons aged 15 to 17 sentenced to immediate custody by police force area and age, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005*

*Average custodial sentence length*

| | 1997 | | | 1998 | | | 1999 | | | 2000 | | | 2001 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* | *Age 15* | *Age 16* | *Age 17* |
| Dyfed-Powys | 6.7 | 18.0 | 7.1 | 23.0 | 3.3 | 5.4 | 13.0 | 2.7 | 4.6 | 4.0 | 6.1 | 10.5 | 5.0 | 12.7 | 5.4 |
| Gwent | 5.0 | 13.3 | 5.3 | 8.1 | 5.1 | 8.2 | 5.2 | 3.5 | 5.5 | 9.8 | 17.4 | 6.2 | 15.2 | 12.2 | 13.9 |
| North Wales | 16.5 | 5.5 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 9.8 | 8.4 | 7.4 | 13.7 | 5.7 | 6.6 | 8.4 | 11.3 | 6.9 | 9.4 | 8.4 |
| South Wales | 6.4 | 8.7 | 9.9 | 6.8 | 8.3 | 7.7 | 6.8 | 7.1 | 7.8 | 7.2 | 9.0 | 10.3 | 7.7 | 8.2 | 8.2 |
| England and Wales | 10.2 | 9.8 | 9.9 | 8.3 | 8.7 | 9.2 | 7.7 | 8.2 | 8.9 | 8.3 | 9.5 | 10.4 | 8.5 | 9.7 | 10.1 |

*Average custodial sentence length*

| | 2002 | | | 2003 | | | 2004 | | | 2005 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *15* | *16* | *17* | *15* | *16* | *17* | *15* | *16* | *17* | *15* | *16* | *17* |
| Avon and Somerset | 7.5 | 12.2 | 13.6 | 9.5 | 7.4 | 9.3 | 9.5 | 11.4 | 12.2 | 8.7 | 7.8 | 10.2 |
| Bedfordshire | 12.9 | 10.8 | 18.1 | 9.8 | 14.4 | 12.6 | 9.2 | 9.9 | 11.6 | 10.1 | 8.9 | 12.7 |
| Cambridgeshire | 9.4 | 11.5 | 13.8 | 8.7 | 13.9 | 9.7 | 7.4 | 12.7 | 15.3 | 7.9 | 14.5 | 10.7 |
| Cheshire | 13.9 | 9.9 | 12.2 | 7.9 | 11.4 | 8.8 | 7.5 | 18.2 | 11.5 | 10.3 | 13.2 | 10.3 |
| City of London | — | — | — | — | — | 18.0 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cleveland | 14.3 | 13.7 | 13.5 | 7.2 | 14.5 | 15.4 | 14.0 | 9.2 | 10.4 | 14.5 | 13.5 | 9.7 |
| Cumbria | 5.7 | 9.9 | 9.7 | 9.1 | 6.4 | 9.3 | 5.8 | 7.7 | 10.1 | 9.0 | 10.0 | 13.2 |
| Derbyshire | 9.7 | 11.4 | 11.8 | 10.6 | 11.7 | 12.2 | 7.3 | 8.3 | 16.3 | 9.6 | 8.9 | 8.6 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 14.3 | 19.0 | 12.2 | 5.0 | 14.4 | 22.2 | 24.0 | 20.7 | 24.5 | 14.7 | 19.5 | 19.8 |
| Dorset | 5.4 | 6.8 | 15.9 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 8.4 | 15.0 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 9.0 | 20.7 | 10.1 |
| Durham | 9.3 | 12.3 | 10.1 | 10.0 | 9.4 | 10.1 | 10.3 | 13.5 | 8.9 | 6.2 | 9.4 | 9.6 |
| Essex | 10.7 | 9.4 | 6.9 | 6.4 | 7.0 | 8.6 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 5.4 | 9.0 | 10.3 |
| Gloucestershire | 12.0 | 7.4 | 12.0 | 12.7 | 12.1 | 7.6 | 8.2 | 10.2 | 8.8 | 7.2 | 6.8 | 14.9 |
| Greater Manchester | 11.9 | 13.2 | 11.8 | 9.8 | 10.6 | 12.5 | 8.3 | 10.0 | 11.2 | 8.5 | 10.4 | 9.8 |
| Hampshire | 9.1 | 10.1 | 11.2 | 7.7 | 11.1 | 11.9 | 6.8 | 7.7 | 10.3 | 6.3 | 9.1 | 10.4 |
| Hertfordshire | 16.2 | 19.1 | 12.0 | 7.0 | 8.8 | 20.0 | 10.9 | 8.6 | 14.1 | 5.0 | 9.4 | 10.6 |
| Humberside | 6.5 | 11.3 | 13.4 | 7.6 | 9.4 | 10.0 | 9.8 | 9.7 | 11.5 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 10.5 |
| Kent | 9.1 | 10.2 | 9.2 | 8.3 | 9.1 | 10.3 | 9.6 | 9.8 | 9.4 | 9.7 | 10.7 | 10.0 |
| Lancashire | 11.2 | 10.4 | 10.5 | 7.3 | 9.4 | 10.1 | 10.9 | 10.3 | 10.4 | 8.2 | 8.6 | 13.9 |
| Leicestershire | 8.5 | 8.4 | 14.2 | 7.4 | 7.7 | 9.5 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 13.1 | 13.1 | 10.4 | 10.9 |
| Lincolnshire | 20.0 | 14.7 | 16.2 | 4.0 | 11.3 | 11.1 | 6.0 | 9.0 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 4.5 | 13.9 |
| Merseyside | 6.6 | 10.0 | 13.2 | 8.0 | 8.9 | 9.3 | 9.5 | 8.0 | 11.7 | 7.8 | 10.0 | 11.1 |
| Metropolitan Police | 12.3 | 10.6 | 14.4 | 12.0 | 12.9 | 14.1 | 11.3 | 13.3 | 15.9 | 10.8 | 11.9 | 14.2 |
| Norfolk | 6.4 | 10.0 | 8.7 | 7.8 | 9.7 | 12.2 | 5.0 | 6.6 | 10.1 | 7.2 | 27.0 | 8.5 |
| North Yorkshire | 9.7 | 15.2 | 11.0 | 12.2 | 10.8 | 8.3 | 9.7 | 7.4 | 8.8 | 13.6 | 11.9 | 10.6 |
| Northamptonshire | 10.6 | 13.3 | 9.4 | 6.0 | 7.1 | 8.8 | 19.4 | 10.6 | 10.5 | 10.8 | 8.7 | 17.2 |
| Northumbria | 11.4 | 8.6 | 11.2 | 7.6 | 8.4 | 10.8 | 14.8 | 7.8 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 11.9 | 11.3 |
| Nottinghamshire | 9.1 | 13.1 | 13.4 | 14.7 | 11.9 | 14.9 | 11.1 | 12.9 | 13.9 | 7.6 | 8.8 | 11.9 |
| South Yorkshire | 9.2 | 10.9 | 17.3 | 11.2 | 13.4 | 11.4 | 15.1 | 12.5 | 15.0 | 13.2 | 12.3 | 12.3 |
| Staffordshire | 7.7 | 9.6 | 9.0 | 8.4 | 9.3 | 8.5 | 7.2 | 11.7 | 8.8 | 9.3 | 9.2 | 9.6 |
| Suffolk | 9.1 | 20.3 | 13.4 | 6.8 | 7.3 | 12.5 | 8.0 | 8.1 | 10.5 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 7.7 |
| Surrey | 4.5 | 16.7 | 8.9 | 10.5 | 10.2 | 9.1 | 10.0 | 9.6 | 14.1 | 8.8 | 6.4 | 17.5 |
| Sussex | 7.6 | 7.7 | 14.9 | 10.8 | 8.9 | 11.2 | 7.9 | 11.9 | 11.7 | 6.5 | 12.1 | 11.2 |
| Thames Valley | 11.3 | 9.5 | 12.2 | 9.8 | 7.0 | 11.6 | 14.9 | 12.4 | 12.3 | 7.2 | 9.0 | 9.1 |
| Warwickshire | 15.6 | 9.5 | 13.8 | 4.0 | 12.0 | 12.3 | 24.0 | 14.0 | 9.8 | 6.2 | 25.8 | 11.1 |
| West Mercia | 8.9 | 10.3 | 8.7 | 9.8 | 7.6 | 8.6 | 7.9 | 9.8 | 9.6 | 9.0 | 7.9 | 7.2 |
| West Midlands | 9.6 | 9.7 | 10.8 | 8.6 | 9.9 | 10.7 | 8.9 | 8.6 | 10.9 | 8.4 | 10.1 | 10.2 |
| West Yorkshire | 9.7 | 11.1 | 13.4 | 9.9 | 9.7 | 11.5 | 9.2 | 11.9 | 12.5 | 7.5 | 11.9 | 12.2 |
| Wiltshire | 6.9 | 13.7 | 8.9 | 11.2 | 10.1 | 8.5 | 5.4 | 11.1 | 10.7 | 13.3 | 10.3 | 13.5 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 6.8 | 10.3 | 12.0 | | 6.0 | 7.2 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 5.3 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 7.7 |
| Gwent | 6.3 | 13.5 | 11.8 | 15.8 | 11.8 | 10.4 | 8.4 | 9.7 | 11.7 | 7.3 | 8.7 | 9.6 |

*Average custodial sentence length*

| Police force area | 2002 15 | 2002 16 | 2002 17 | 2003 15 | 2003 16 | 2003 17 | 2004 15 | 2004 16 | 2004 17 | 2005 15 | 2005 16 | 2005 17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Wales | 7.4 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 12.6 | 7.4 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 13.7 | 9.6 | 6.9 | 6.1 | 9.5 |
| South Wales | 10.1 | 10.5 | 11.2 | 8.0 | 10.3 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 10.1 | 10.1 | 7.0 | 8.5 | 8.7 |
| England and Wales | 10.3 | 10.9 | 12.3 | 9.6 | 10.3 | 11.3 | 9.7 | 10.6 | 12.0 | 8.7 | 10.5 | 11.2 |

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

*Notes:*

1. Small numbers of persons may result in high average custodial sentence lengths. Where numbers are low, average custodial sentence lengths are susceptible to bias from individual cases and may not be representative of local sentencing practice.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

*Source:*

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answers of 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1027-28W and 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1252W, on disorder penalty notices, when he expects the evaluation of the pilot on the issuance of penalty notices for disorder to 10 to 15-year-olds to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [167114]

**Mr. Hanson:** The evaluation report will be published as soon as possible.

## Young People: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices for disorder in relation to the sale of alcohol to a person under 18 years of age were issued in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 2004; how many of these resulted in an unpaid fine in each area; and what the average level of fine was in each year. [165811]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested on the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for selling alcohol to persons under-18 is provided in the following table.

This offence attracts a penalty notice for disorder (PND) of £80. The offence was added to the PND scheme on 1 November 2004. Failure to pay the penalty or request a court hearing within 21 days, results in a fine of one-and-half times the penalty amount, in this case £120, being registered by the court. Data on the number of PNDs issued and fine registered for 2004 and 2005 are also provided in the table; data for 2006 will be available shortly.

*The number of penalty notices for disorder issued for offences related to the illegal sale of alcohol to persons aged under-18[1, 2]*

| Police force area | Penalty notices for disorder issued 2004 | Penalty notices for disorder issued 2005 | Penalty notices for disorder fine registered 2004 | Penalty notices for disorder fine registered 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | — | 56 | — | 4 |
| Bedfordshire | — | 2 | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire | — | 11 | — | — |
| Cheshire | — | 49 | — | 2 |
| Cleveland | — | 33 | — | 1 |
| Cumbria | — | 23 | — | — |
| Derbyshire | — | 8 | — | 1 |
| Devon and Cornwall | — | 82 | — | 7 |
| Dorset | 22 | 22 | 2 | — |
| Durham | — | — | — | — |
| Essex | 7 | 120 | — | 6 |
| Gloucestershire | — | 42 | — | 5 |
| Greater Manchester | — | 127 | — | 22 |
| Hampshire | 2 | 67 | 1 | 7 |
| Hertfordshire | — | 3 | — | — |
| Humberside | 2 | 45 | — | 3 |
| Kent | — | 10 | — | 6 |
| Lancashire | 30 | 190 | 1 | 22 |
| Leicestershire | 2 | 46 | — | 4 |
| Lincolnshire | — | 26 | — | 1 |
| Merseyside | 2 | 73 | — | 15 |
| Metropolitan Police | 21 | 161 | 3 | 16 |
| Norfolk | — | — | — | — |
| North Yorkshire | — | — | — | — |
| Northamptonshire | 1 | 39 | — | 4 |
| Northumbria | 1 | 48 | 1 | 3 |
| Nottinghamshire | 9 | 117 | — | 17 |
| South Yorkshire | 2 | 107 | — | 9 |
| Staffordshire | — | 19 | — | 1 |
| Suffolk | — | 19 | — | 1 |
| Surrey | — | — | — | — |
| Sussex | — | 63 | — | 2 |
| Thames Valley | — | 12 | — | — |
| Warwickshire | — | 3 | — | 1 |
| West Mercia | 1 | 22 | — | 1 |
| West Midlands | 6 | 114 | 2 | 13 |
| West Yorkshire | 4 | 72 | — | 11 |
| Wiltshire | — | 8 | — | 1 |
| Dyfed-Powys | — | 18 | — | — |
| Gwent | — | 20 | — | 2 |
| North Wales | 1 | 58 | — | 10 |

*The number of penalty notices for disorder issued for offences related to the illegal sale of alcohol to persons aged under-18[1, 2]*

| Police force area | Penalty notices for disorder issued | | Penalty notices for disorder fine registered | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 |
| South Wales | — | 123 | — | 13 |
| England and Wales | 113 | 2,038 | 10 | 211 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] PND data covers the offence of sale of alcohol to person under-18 under the Licensing Act 2003 S126.
*Source:*
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Business: Royal Mail

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, if he will hold discussions with the chair of the National Consumer Council on the requirements of business users of the Royal Mail following its agreed merger with Postwatch and Energywatch. [166810]

**Mr. McFadden:** My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State will hold discussions with the chair of the new National Consumer Council on a wide range of consumer matters including any plans the council may have in relation to problems faced by small businesses in the postal and energy sectors.

The Consumers Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007 provides the new National Consumer Council with extensive powers to investigate complaints and the definition of "consumer" in the Act is sufficiently wide to incorporate small businesses. However the new National Consumer Council is an independent body and will consult on its priorities and how it intends to address the range of issues affecting consumers in its business plan.

### Companies Act 2006

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which individuals and organisations his Department plans to consult on the commencement date for those provisions of the Companies Act 2006 which do not necessitate changes to Companies House processes and which were originally due to come into force on 1 October 2008. [166765]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government have invited comments from key stakeholders on the commencement date of provisions of the Companies Act 2006 which could still be commenced on 1 October 2008 because they do not necessitate changes to Companies House systems and processes. Officials have also discussed the commencement date of such provisions with stakeholders at a meeting of the Companies Act Implementation Advisory Group on 21 November, and have had separate meetings and discussions with other business organisations.

### Companies: Registration

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many late filing penalties were imposed by Companies House in October *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2006; and how much revenue was raised by the Government through such late filing penalties in each year. [168377]

**Mr. Timms:** In October 2006 Companies House issued 15,969 late filing penalties with a value of £3,868,000. The actual revenue received in that month was £3,435,537.

In October 2007 Companies House issued 17,397 late filing penalties with a value of £4,168,000. The actual revenue received in that month was £3,339,974.

The total amount of late filing penalties collected and passed to the Treasury for the months requested does not relate to the amounts levied for the same periods as there is a time lag between penalties being issued and collected.

### Consumers: Protection

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if his Department will commission research on the effect of Postwatch's merger with the National Consumer Council and Energywatch on consumer protection; [166811]

(2) if his Department will put in place procedures to review the effect on consumer protection of the merger of Postwatch, Energywatch and the National Consumer Council. [166812]

**Mr. McFadden:** The new NCC is not scheduled to be vested with its full powers until 1 October 2008. It will require a further period after this before it is operating at its full capacity. The National Audit Office has already indicated that it has an interest in the merger outcomes and the Department will consult with the NAO about the timing and of and prospective approach to any future review.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his officials have had on protecting the interests of business consumers of mail services with particular reference to the merger of the National Consumer Council, Energywatch and Postwatch. [166813]

**Mr. McFadden:** Officials from the Department meet monthly with colleagues from Postwatch on all issues concerning complaints whether from vulnerable consumers or from small businesses.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his officials have had on the transitional arrangements in the process of merging the National Consumer Council, Energywatch and Postwatch, with particular reference to the interests of consumers. [166814]

**Mr. McFadden:** Officials from the Department are working in collaboration with colleagues from the National Consumer Council, Energywatch and Postwatch to draw up transition plans. The project is governed by a steering and delivery group comprising Department officials, the consumer bodies, Consumer Direct and the sector regulators for the postal services and energy sectors. Working groups are considering HR, IT, legal contracts, finance, complaints handling, policy and campaigns and communications.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contribution his Department and its predecessor made to meeting the target to reverse the upward trend in carbon dioxide emissions from the Government estate by April 2007. [165936]

**Malcolm Wicks:** BERR and its predecessor, the DTI, and its executive agencies have reduced its carbon emissions from the estate by 14.4 per cent. since baseline levels (1999-2000) and have initiatives in place to further improve performance through awareness and energy efficient product trials.

### Departmental Manpower

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many civil servants in his Department and its predecessor *(a)* transferred to other Government Departments and *(b)* left the civil service in each of the last five years. [162723]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer the hon. member to the answer given by the Exchequer Secretary on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 203W.

### Departmental Renewable Energy

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of the electricity used by his Department was generated from *(a)* renewable sources and *(b)* on-site microgeneration facilities in the last period for which figures are available. [166473]

**Mr. Thomas:** The information is as follows:

*(a)* The Department and its predecessor—DTI, has purchased electricity from renewable sources since 1999. From October 2007 all HQ buildings have been supplied with green electricity where the Department is responsible for the purchase of electricity supply which compares favourably to the Sustainable Development target for energy target which is to buy 10 per cent. by 2008. The previous percentage was 36 per cent.

*(b)* The Department does not currently have any on-site microgeneration facilities on its HQ estate and therefore does not produce any energy from such a source. During May 2006 Future Energy Solutions (AEA Technology) in conjunction with the Carbon Trust were commissioned to perform a Renewable Energy Feasibility Study on the DTI HQ estate, now BERR. The Department are investigating the installation of feasible solutions where practicable and where leases permit.

### Electricity Generation

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of electricity was generated by *(a)* coal, *(b)* oil and gas, *(c)* renewables and *(d)* nuclear sources, in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [165813]

**Malcolm Wicks:** This information is not compiled on a regional basis. This is because in some regions the information would relate to a small number of power stations and would thus disclose data given to this Department in confidence under the National Statistics Code of Practice. However, separate data for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England have been made available for 2004 and 2005. Corresponding 2006 data are due to be published in December 2007. The available data are as follows:

*Percentage*

| | *Scotland* | *Wales* | *England and Northern Ireland*[1] | *UK* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2004* | | | | |
| Coal | 25.5 | 20.4 | 36.1 | 33.4 |
| Oil and gas | 26.1 | 49.1 | 42.6 | 41.0 |
| Renewables | 11.5 | 3.0 | 2.3 | 3.6 |
| Nuclear | 35.3 | 20.8 | 17.7 | 20.2 |
| Other fuels[2] | 1.6 | 6.7 | 1.3 | 1.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| *2005* | | | | |
| Coal | 24.8 | 19.5 | 36.6 | 33.7 |
| Oil and gas | 22.5 | 46.1 | 41.5 | 39.6 |
| Renewables | 13.2 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 4.2 |
| Nuclear | 38.2 | 22.6 | 17.4 | 20.4 |
| Other fuels[2] | 1.3 | 8.3 | 1.6 | 2.1 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

[1] Separate data for Northern Ireland cannot be given.
[2] Other fuels include hydro pumped storage, coke oven gas, blast furnace gas, and waste fuels from chemical processes.
*Source:*
Energy Trends, December 2006

### Energy: Plymouth

**Mr. Streeter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made in establishing an energy park at Langage, Plymouth. [165586]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The Energy Park is a private sector development being taken forward by Carlton Power Limited. Full planning permission has been obtained for land to the east of the energy centre, which is owned by Centrica, where high quality office accommodation is proposed in several phases.

Carlton Power is now in discussion with the district council and with the south west of England regional development agency to establish how the development of the wider and strategic employment site can be taken forward.

### Export Credit Guarantees: Iran

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1816W, on Iran: export credits guarantee, how many requests for Export Credit Guarantees Department cover for exports to Iran were received in each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [166110]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1492W, on Iran: Export Credit Guarantees.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what has been the total level of UK export credit guarantee exposure with Iran in each of the last five financial years. [166142]

**Malcolm Wicks:** ECGD's exposure (future liabilities) to Iran, relating to both export credit guarantees and insurance, at the end of each of the last five financial years is set out in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *Future liabilities (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 110.6 |
| 2003-04 | 171.8 |
| 2004-05 | 253.0 |
| 2005-06 | 318.0 |
| 2006-07 | 286.2 |

As at the end of October 2007, future liabilities stood at £275.4 million. In addition, there are around £29 million of outstanding claims relating to transactions supported in the pre-revolution period.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the most recent UK export credit guarantees for trade with Iran were issued; and if he will make a statement. [166143]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The most recent issued cover (an insurance product) was on 27 September 2006.

### Fisheries: Compensation

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to *(a)* complete his review of the Icelandic Trawlermen's Compensation Scheme and *(b)* make outstanding compensation payments under the scheme. [167800]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government are reviewing the eligibility criteria and scheme rules for consistency with the policy intention underlying the scheme and hope to reach a conclusion shortly. There are no outstanding payments under the scheme.

### Fuel Poverty

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons his Department has not published the number of households in England in fuel poverty since 2004; and when he expects to publish that information. [167506]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government will publish shortly its annual progress report on fuel poverty covering 2005 which will include statistics of households in fuel poverty in England in 2005. The publication has been delayed to allow the Government to provide an update on the activities outlined in the Energy White Paper 2007.

### Fuel: Prices

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the annual aggregate increase in fuel prices has been in each year since 2002. [165976]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The following table details the annual change in prices in each year since 2002, for gas and electricity to both domestic and industrial users. The last row shows the cumulative change in prices over the five years to 2006.

*Percentage*

| | *Domestic* | | *Industrial* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Gas* | *Electricity* | *Gas* | *Electricity* |
| 2002 | 6 | -3 | -5 | -5 |
| 2003 | 2 | -2 | 0 | -6 |
| 2004 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| 2005 | 15 | 8 | 45 | 28 |
| 2006 | 32 | 19 | 24 | 30 |
| 2001-06 | 54 | 27 | 83 | 57 |

*Note:*
Prices are in real terms. Domestic prices are sourced from the Retail Prices Index. Industrial price data from BERR includes the Climate Change Levy.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the effect of a change in fuel prices on (i) food prices and (ii) the cost of living; and if he will make a statement. [167291]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department actively monitors the effect of changes in fuel prices on the Government's energy policy goals, including those relating to fuel poverty, and also the impact on the UK economy. However, the Department has not commissioned any research looking specifically at the effect of changes in fuel prices on the cost of living and food prices.

### Hertfordshire Oil Storage Terminal

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects the Buncefield oil depot to re-open; and if he will make a statement. [164564]

**Malcolm Wicks:** It is not yet known when the Buncefield oil terminal complex will reopen.

The Buncefield complex is of strategic importance for the supply of jet fuel to Heathrow and Gatwick airports. I understand that Dacorum borough council (DBC) are currently in discussion with the oil companies, concerning a proposal to commence jet fuel storage and

supply only at this stage. The oil companies propose to delay recommencement of petrol and diesel storage and distribution until the findings of the Major Incident Investigation Board and the recommendations of the Buncefield Standards Task Group on standards and best practice have been fully considered and further discussions held with DBC and other stakeholders.

A number of planning applications have been submitted to DBC and St. Albans district council by the oil companies and their agencies having facilities within the complex. These cover works required to repair and improve the sites to new safety and environmental standards. The determination of these applications is a matter for the councils concerned.

**Industrial Disputes: Royal Mail**

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the financial effect on Royal Mail of the industrial action in September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [167087]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department has not assessed the financial effects of the industrial action on Royal Mail. This is an operational matter for the company. It is clear, however, that the strikes will have had some impact on the business although mitigating action was taken to advise customers to post mail on non-strike days. There is also the possibility that the industrial action may result in users of postal services moving to other means of communication.

**Industry: Robots**

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department provides to encourage investment in industrial robots in the UK. [166520]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government support and encourage investment through a range of measures including tax incentives (e.g. capital allowances) and through business support schemes such as Selective Finance for Investment in England and its equivalent in the devolved administrations. In addition the Technology Strategy Board supports innovation and collaborative research and development into leading edge technologies including robotics and automation. The most recent competition under the Technology Programme announced on 8 November by John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, seeks proposals to develop new high value manufacturing techniques to secure the nation's future manufacturing base with research on the next generation of production techniques. We are also aware that the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council is currently supporting 19 robotics assembly and automated handling projects with funding of over £10.5 million.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on appropriate levels of expenditure on industrial robots in UK manufacturing. [166521]

**Mr. Timms:** My Department has no policy on the appropriate levels of company expenditure on industrial robots. Government encourages and supports business investment through a range of policy measures but company investment decisions of this nature are a commercial matter for individual companies.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department holds on the ratio of industrial robots to members of the workforce used in manufacturing in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* France, *(c)* Germany, *(d)* the USA and *(e)* China. [166534]

**Mr. Timms:** My Department does not hold official statistics on the ratio of industrial robots to workforce. We are aware that the International Federation of Robotics provides statistical information of this type.

**Internet: Fraud**

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the UK banking industry about combating fraudulent phishing e-mails which appear to originate from individual banks and financial service providers. [162305]

**Mr. Timms:** My Department has no direct remit for monitoring the banking sector. Informal contacts between officials take place from time to time in the wider context of work on information security. The Home Office works with the banking industry to help combat the problems of spam and phishing.

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with internet service providers on reducing the quantity of fraudulent and unsolicited email sent to UK email addresses. [162312]

**Mr. Timms:** Many ISPs are taking active steps to prevent bad traffic reaching their customers and many have spam email boxes which enable their customers to complain about specific emails. Both Government and Ofcom are talking to the ISPs about how we might improve standards across the sector and how those improvements might be made more visible to end users. These discussions now need to reflect the recently published proposals from the European Commission regarding the review of the telecoms regulatory framework and which include recommendations designed to reduce the impact of spam.

**Internet: Taxation**

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on content on his Department's website which promotes the UK's favourable tax treatment of businesses. [165565]

**Mr. Thomas:** My Department's website carries a range of information of interest to business, including aspects of taxation. I have had no discussions with the Chancellor in respect of the BERR website.

## National Grid: Electricity

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the distribution losses of electricity over the national grid in each of the last five years. [165812]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Losses between 2002 and 2006 (the last year for which data are available) are summarised as follows.

| | *Losses (GWh)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 29,980 |
| 2003 | 29,862 |
| 2004 | 30,728 |
| 2005 | 30,638 |
| 2006 | 30,918 |

*Source:*
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2007

Electricity is lost from both the National Grid's high voltage transmission system, and the distribution networks. In each of the years shown, losses from the transmission system were equivalent to approximately 1.5 per cent. of total electricity available, and approximately 6 per cent. of electricity available was lost via the distribution network. In addition, around 0.5 per cent. is accounted for by theft or meter fraud and accounting differences making about 8 per cent. losses in total.

## North West Development Agency: Grants

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* research and *(b)* development grants were awarded by the North West Development Agency in each of the last five financial years. [163002]

**Mr. Timms:** The research and development grants awarded by the North West Development Agency in each of the last five financial years are detailed in the following.

| | *Research* | | *Development* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Awards* | *Offers (£)* | *Awards* | *Offers (£)* |
| 2002-03 | 74 | 3,273,547 | 60 | 3,615,514 |
| 2003-04 | 74 | 3,719,914 | 71 | 4,531,199 |
| 2004-05 | 18 | 1,143,120 | 35 | 4,405,885 |
| 2005-06 | 6 | 447,590 | 11 | 1,505,211 |
| 2006-07 | 11 | 665,560 | 36 | 3,542,250 |

## Nuclear Power Stations

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the capability of the *(a)* Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to undertake the process of generic design assessment for new nuclear power stations. [167859]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Regulators, including the Health and Safety Executive and its Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, have developed resource plans to allow them to implement generic design assessment. Industry will, as now, meet the cost of licensing any nuclear plant.

Before generic design assessments began, we carried out a prioritisation process to ensure that the regulators could focus their resources on those designs that have the greatest chance of being built. If the nuclear consultation concludes that the private sector ought to be able to choose to invest in nuclear, it is likely that there will be a further prioritisation process to reduce the number of designs being assessed from four to three.

We continue to work closely with the regulators to ensure they have sufficient resource to carry out pre-licensing assessments within the 3 to 3.5 year timeframe.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he expects the *(a)* Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to hire external consultants to carry out the process of generic design assessment for new nuclear power stations. [167860]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Health and Safety Executive and its Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, along with the other regulators, have developed resource plans to allow them to carry out the Generic Design Assessment work. The regulators will recover their costs from industry, as is currently the case for licensing of nuclear plants.

The regulators will use suitably qualified staff to carry out the assessments. How the regulators organise themselves internally, including whether to use external consultants, is a matter for them.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made by the Environment Agency on the process of pre-authorisation for new nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [167861]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The consultation document "The Future of Nuclear Power", published on 23 May 2007 invited vendors of nuclear reactor designs who are interested in having their designs assessed through the Generic Design Assessment process to write to the regulators' Joint Programme Office by 22 June 2007.

By this date, the regulators had received four applications for Generic Design Assessment.

Following assessment of the applications by the Government, all four were found to have met the criteria set down in the consultation document and as a result, the regulators (the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency) agreed to assess all four designs in the initial stage of the generic design assessment process. A press notice setting out the outcome of the Government's assessment of applications was released on 5 July 2007. This, along with the letters of application sent by the vendors, and their letters of endorsement from operators, can be found on the BERR website.

Following this step, the Environment Agency, along with the other regulators, have begun work on the generic design assessment process on a contingent basis, pending the outcome of the nuclear consultation.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the capability of the Environment Agency to undertake the process of pre-authorisation for new nuclear power stations. [167862]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The regulators, including the Environment Agency, have developed resource plans to allow them to implement generic design assessment. Industry will, as now, meet the cost of licensing any nuclear plant.

Before generic design assessments began, we carried out a prioritisation process to ensure that the regulators could focus their resources on those designs that have the greatest chance of being built. If the nuclear consultation concludes that the private sector ought to be able to choose to invest in nuclear, it is likely that there will be a further prioritisation process to reduce the number of designs being assessed from four to three.

We continue to work closely with the regulators to ensure they have sufficient resource to carry out pre-licensing assessments within the three to three and a half year timeframe.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he expects the Environment Agency to hire external consultants to carry out the process of pre-authorisation for new nuclear power stations. [167863]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Environment Agency, along with the other regulators, have developed resource plans to allow them to carry out the Generic Design Assessment work. The regulators will recover their costs from industry, as is currently the case for licensing of nuclear plants. The regulators will use suitably qualified staff to carry out the assessments. How the regulators organise themselves internally, including whether to use external consultants, is a matter for them.

## Nuclear Power Stations: Sellafield

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has made any request, or otherwise indicated, that it wishes to extend the operating life of the B205 reprocessing plant at Sellafield beyond its current planned closure date of 2012. [163672]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has indicated, in its recently published three-year Business Plan, that logistical issues at Sellafield mean that it will not be possible to complete reprocessing of spent fuel from Magnox reactors within the original planned time scales. Consequently, it is likely that the reprocessing of Magnox spent fuel, which was due to be completed by around 2012, will not be completed until 2016 or later.

The NDA is committed to consulting widely on the implications of any changes to the currently approved Magnox Operating Plan version 7.

## Office of Fair Trading: Manpower

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the full-time staff complement of the Office of Fair Trading is; and how many of its employees receive an annual salary *(a)* between £50,000 and £100,000, *(b)* between £100,001 and £150,000 and *(c)* above £150,000. [167133]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* Full-time complement of OFT is 735, made up of 626 filled roles and 109 vacancies.

| *Those receiving salaries of* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* between £50,000 and £100,000 | 96 |
| *(b)* between £100,001 and £150,000 | 4 |
| *(c)* above £150,000 | 4 |

## Part-Time Employment

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to date to *(a)* private sector and *(b)* public sector employers of meeting the requirements of the (i) Part-time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000 and (ii) Fixed-term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002. [165921]

**Mr. McFadden:** Estimates of the costs and benefits of implementing the Part Time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations were published in the "2000 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments" (URN 06/1164), while estimates for the Fixed-Term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations were published in the "2002 Compendium of Regulatory Impact Assessments" (URN 05/582). Both publications are available from the BERR website. The Department continues to monitor the impact of these and other Regulations closely as part of BERR's ongoing employment relations monitoring and evaluation programme.

## Post Offices: Closures

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the proposed closure of Lancelyn Court Post Office. [166766]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices and final decisions on which post offices will close will be taken by Post Office Ltd. (POL) in light of the responses received to the area consultations.

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many responses have been received to the six-week consultation over proposed post office closures in East Essex and Suffolk. [167505]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many submissions from *(a)* the general public, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* others he received on each post office in Nottinghamshire in response to the recent consultation on post office closures. [168180]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

### Post Offices: Rural Areas

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the likely number of rural post offices which will be open in November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [167178]

**Mr. McFadden:** None. This is a matter for Post Office Ltd. Post Office Ltd.'s local decisions will need to reflect the Government's aim of supporting a national network of post offices and to comply with the access criteria requirements set by Government. It is expected that there will be roughly similar numbers of closures in rural and urban areas.

### Royal Mail: Finance

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which consultancy firms have been engaged by his Department to provide advice on the funding of Royal Mail over the last 12 months; and what the projected cost of each such contract is. [167134]

**Mr. McFadden:** In the last 12 months, my Department has engaged Deloitte, Herbert Smith, Credit Suisse and Strategia on work relating to the Government's funding for Royal Mail. The collective costs for the 12 months to end October 2007 were £3.8 million. For reasons of commercial confidentiality, it would not be appropriate to break this down to the individual costs for each adviser.

### Small Businesses: Tax Allowances

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses in Eastbourne constituency applied for small business tax relief in each of the last five years. [165330]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available. However, as at 31 December 2006, there were 802 businesses in the Eastbourne borough council area that were in receipt of small business rate relief.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses in West Chelmsford constituency applied for small business tax relief in each of the last five years. [166239]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available. However, as at 31 December 2006, there were 938 businesses in the Chelmsford borough council area that were in receipt of small business rate relief.

### Supermarkets: Alcoholic Drinks

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on fair competition of supermarkets selling alcohol at cost price. [168116]

**Mr. Thomas:** Ensuring markets operate freely and fairly is a matter for the independent competition authorities, rather than for Government.

In its preliminary findings from its inquiry into the UK groceries market the Competition Commission (CC) said

> "below cost selling by national retailers is not part of a predatory strategy aimed at convenience stores or specialist stores and is not having significant unintended effects on smaller stores".

Appendix 5.6 of the provisional findings covered below-cost selling and as part of the assessment, looked specifically at the extent of below-cost selling of alcohol during the football World Cup in 2006. This assessment is located at

> http://www.competition-commission.gov.uk/inquiries/ref2006/grocery/prov_findings/prov_find_app_5_6.pdf

Parties have until 30 November to submit comments on the CC's provisional findings and possible remedies. The CC is due to publish its final report by May 2008.

### Tax Avoidance: Advertising

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reason advertisements for the tax avoidance services provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers have appeared on his Department's website. [165563]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is not aware of any advertisement of the tax avoidance services provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers on its website. It is not BERR's website policy to endorse the services and products of commercial organisations.

However, it is possible to access the PricewaterhouseCoopers website from the BERR website search engine results page. That site does contain information on the company's tax services.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department received from PricewaterhouseCoopers for the advertisements placed on his Department's website which promote that company's tax avoidance services. [165564]

**Mr. Thomas:** No such advertisement for PricewaterhouseCooper's tax avoidance services has been placed on my Department's website, so no payment has been received.

### Telent

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will make a statement on the proposed closure of the Telent site in Chorley; [167595]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Pensions Corporation on pension rights for existing Telent employees; [167596]

(3) what support has been given to Telent by *(a)* the North West Development Agency and *(b)* Government Office North West. [167598]

**Mr. Timms:** Discussion with the Pension Corporation over the pension rights for Telent employees is a matter for the pensions regulator. BERR has had no such discussions.

I have also been advised that neither the Northwest Development Agency or nor the Government office for the north-west have given assistance or support to Telent Ltd. However, the NWDA is willing to meet either my hon. Friend or the company if that would help.

### Toys and Games: Safety

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how much he has allocated to assist facilities commissioned to monitor and test imported toys for health and safety issues; [167566]

(2) what steps he is taking to reduce the importation of toys with high levels of heavy metals to the UK. [167567]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Toys (Safety) Regulations 1995 which govern the safety of toys sold in the UK are enforced by local authority trading standards departments (TSDs), who check toys placed on the market to ensure that they comply will all the essential safety requirements of the regulations including those regarding heavy metals. I have asked TSDs to step up their enforcement efforts in light of the recent toy recalls.

We have not allocated any additional funds to TSDs as enforcement of the regulations is part of their usual regime on the enforcement of consumer product legislation, funded through the normal local authority funding arrangements for which the Department of Communities and Local Government is responsible.

### Trade Promotion

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will estimate the return per £1 spent on trade promotion by UK Trade and Investment in the latest period for which figures are available. [R] [166753]

**Mr. Thomas:** Performance of UKTI trade services is monitored through independent surveys of UKTI clients carried out on behalf of UKTI by OMB Research, with results published quarterly.

The surveys consistently demonstrate that the services enable companies to up-grade their export capabilities, and overcome barriers to overseas markets, resulting in improved business performance.

Latest survey results show estimated total financial benefit to businesses of around £2.5 billion annually, across all UKTI trade services.

An independent evaluation of four UKTI trade services published in March 2006 found that £65 million generated benefit of some £1.13 billion—in other words £17 benefit for each £1 UKTI spend.

In 2006, an evaluation by consultants SQW of the International Trade Teams in the English regions estimated that the services they deliver produce benefit of £25 per £1 UKTI spend.

### Employees: Carers

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effect of care responsibilities on work-life balance for employees; and what assessment has been made of the potential merits of a care voucher scheme. [162301]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government are keen to ensure that people with caring responsibilities can make the most of opportunities to balance work with their caring responsibilities.

They will look carefully at the costs and benefits of any further proposals, including whether it is the most effective mechanism for tackling the issues faced by carers, particularly those experienced by specific groups, when making an assessment of the case for intervention in this area.

The Government keeps tax reliefs under review and has received representations in this area. However, it does not believe that allowing employers to provide employees with tax and NICs free care vouchers is the most appropriate, fair or cost effective way of tackling the issues faced by carers.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Wines

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Office; and if he will make a statement. [164296]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1094W.

### Departmental Written Questions

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Prime Minister whether it is his practice to attach to Written Answers hard copies of earlier replies cited in such Answers where these were previously given to hon. Members other than the hon. Member to whom the Answer is addressed. [167766]

**The Prime Minister:** Yes.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Firearms

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many firearm certificate applications were made in each police service of Northern Ireland district command unit area in each of the last three years; how many of these applications were *(a)* granted and *(b)* declined; how many applicants appealed against a decision to decline an application; and how many of those appeals were (i) upheld and (ii) dismissed. [166209]

**Paul Goggins:** The Chief Constable has provided the information in Table 1 in relation to firearm certificate applications.

*Table 1*

| | 2005[1] | | 2006[2] | | 2007 (to date) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Granted* | *Refused* | *Granted* | *Refused* | *Granted* | *Refused* |
| Applications | 11,984 | 270 | 27,690 | 247 | 16,476 | 159 |

[1] 2005 statistics are available only from 1 February 2005 when a new computer system was introduced to take account of the provisions of the Firearms (Order) 2004.

[2] The increased number of applications dealt with in 2006 reflects the carry forward of a significant backlog of cases received in 2005.

*Note:*

Applications received in 2005, 2006 and 2007 cannot be attributed by the computer system to individual District Command Units. Such analysis could be done only at disproportionate cost to public funds.

The figures for firearms appeals are given in Table 2.

*Table 2*

| | *Late appeals not accepted* | *Refused* | *Allowed* | *Withdrawn* | *Part refused/ allowed* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 | 7 | 45 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 2006 | 3 | 27 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| 2007 | 3 | 26 | 4 | 0 | 0 |

As the result of an administrative error, an incorrect figure of 147 was recorded in an earlier PQ (123488) for applications refused in 2006. The figure should have read 247.

### Handguns: Registration

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average length of time taken to process firearm certificate applications in Northern Ireland was in each of the last 18 months. [166210]

**Paul Goggins:** The Chief Constable of the Police Service for Northern Ireland has provided the following information in relation to the average processing time for firearm certificates:

*Table 1*

| 2006 | *Average Processing Time (Number of Days)* |
|---|---|
| May | 89 |
| June | 89 |
| July | 64 |
| August | 52 |
| September | [1]39 |
| October | [1]28 |
| November | [1]33 |
| December | 62 |

[1] These returns reflect a reduction in the number of applications received during this period.

*Table 2*

| 2007 | *Average Processing Time (Number of Days)* |
|---|---|
| January | 48 |
| February | 62 |
| March | 74 |
| April | 69 |
| May | 58 |
| June | 54 |
| July | 51 |
| August | 58 |
| September | 60 |
| October | 50 |

### Police: Finance

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the policing budget is for Northern Ireland in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the change in budget on numbers of police officers available for duties over the next 12 months. [167999]

**Paul Goggins:** The total policing budget for Northern Ireland in 2007-08 is £1,236,081,000. The NIO has received its CSR07 settlement from HM Treasury but work is currently ongoing on how this will be allocated across the Department. Until this is completed I am not in a position to advise on the final allocation for policing in Northern Ireland for 2008-09.

The Government remain completely committed to the proper resourcing of the PSNI to ensure that it is equipped to deliver effective policing for the benefit of everyone in Northern Ireland. PSNI budget, per head of population, is more than any other police service in the UK and Northern Ireland has more police officers than comparable parts of the UK.

### Sex Offenders: Registration

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were on the sex offenders register in Northern Ireland in each of the past six years. [166208]

**Paul Goggins:** The total number of sex offenders in Northern Ireland subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 was as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 31 March 2007 | 670 |
| 31 March 2006 | 620 |
| 31 March 2005 | 544 |

The majority of persons who come under the notification requirements are subject to a notification period of five years or more and the annual increase largely reflects the number of new convictions.

As a breakdown of figures for sex offenders subject to the notification requirements was not recorded on an annual basis until 2005, I am not able to provide the information requested for 2002, 2003 and 2004.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of inquiries received by his Office from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167372]

**Edward Miliband:** Details of departments' and agencies' handling of correspondence from MPs and Peers is published on an annual basis. The most recent statistics were published by way of a written ministerial statement on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS. Information for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the calendar year.

### Departmental Responsibilities: Security

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Government department will take primary responsibility for the UK's national security strategy announced in his statement to the House on 25 July. [165658]

**Edward Miliband:** The Cabinet Office, working with all interested Departments and Agencies, is co-ordinating the production of the National Security Strategy.

### Members: Correspondence

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells on charities and political campaigning dated 30 October. [167606]

**Edward Miliband:** A reply was sent to the hon. Member today.

### National Security

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to publish the UK's national security strategy as announced in his statement to the House on 25 July. [165659]

**Edward Miliband:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made to the House on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 667.

### Opinion Leader Research

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many contracts were awarded by the Cabinet Office to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Office in each case. [165394]

**Edward Miliband:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) and the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 530W, and the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) by the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Hilary Armstrong) on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1038W.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Leader of the House (1) how much her Office spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; [167300]

(2) how much her Office spent on managing its corporate identity in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167345]

**Helen Goodman:** None.

### Legislative Drafting: Public Participation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Leader of the House what regional events were held in the West Midlands for organisations and stakeholders to discuss the Government's draft legislative programme published in July with the Minister for the West Midlands; and if she will make a statement. [166695]

**Helen Goodman:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on Wednesday, 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 933W.

### Regional Government: Ministers

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Leader of the House (1) what mechanisms are in place for regional Ministers to account to Parliament; [167601]

(2) if she will establish a regular oral question time to allow regional Ministers to be questioned by hon. Members. [167602]

**Helen Goodman:** All Ministers are accountable to Parliament. The Government are considering how best to take forward the ideas in the Governance of Britain Green Paper for committees to reflect the English regions. The Modernisation Select Committee of the House of Commons announced an inquiry into Regional Accountability on 11 October and the Government expect to submit a memorandum to that Committee.

There are no current plans for a specific question slot to be given to regional Ministers.

### Written Questions

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will advise Ministers to adhere to the practice of attaching to written answers hard copies of earlier replies cited in such answers where these were previously given to hon. Members other than the hon. Member to whom the answer is addressed. [168300]

**Helen Goodman:** It is standard practice to provide Members with a copy of any previous response which is referred to in an answer to a question.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Crisis Loans

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what criteria are used to assess eligibility for a crisis loan; [163497]

(2) what steps are being taken to ensure that the appeal process for refused social fund applications is accessible and easy to use; [163498]

(3) what process applicants must go through to prove their eligibility for a crisis loan; [163502]

(4) what steps are being taken to ensure that those living in rural communities can easily access a crisis loan; [163503]

(5) whether those visiting Jobcentre Plus to access a crisis loan are offered an alternative to a telephone claim. [163581]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 29 November 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply direct to your questions asking about the criteria used to assess eligibility for crisis loans, the process applicants must go through to prove their eligibility to crisis loans, what steps are being taken to ensure that the appeal process is accessible and easy to use, steps being taken to ensure those living in rural communities can easily access a crisis loan and whether those visiting Jobcentre Plus to access a crisis loan are offered an alternative to a telephone claim. These are things that fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The criteria used to assess eligibility for a crisis loan are that the applicant:

has immediate short term needs in an emergency or as a consequence of a disaster;

is 16 or over and has no other means or getting help; and

shows that a crisis loan is the only way that serious damage to their own health or safety or that of their family can be avoided.

Applicants must prove their eligibility for a crisis loan by providing a Jobcentre Plus decision maker with sufficient information to determine their application. Our preferred method of taking this information is by telephone where the customer requires a loan for living expenses. However, those customers unable to use the telephone, or where money is being requested to buy an item or service, should submit a written application by post or in person. Irrespective of the method of application, applicants have to provide full details of their circumstances and the effect of the emergency or disaster. They must also give details of their financial situation including other possible sources of help.

Jobcentre Plus is sensitive to the needs of those customers living in rural communities. Many Jobcentre Plus offices already offer a crisis loan application service by telephone and travel warrants can be provided to those customers who have no money to meet fares incurred in collecting their payment from a Jobcentre Plus office.

Customers who visit a Jobcentre Plus office are advised about the benefits of the telephone application process, including the availability of the free phone number. If this does not suit the customer, they can make a written crisis loan application.

The review process that applies to the discretionary social fund is straightforward and widely publicised in Jobcentre Plus leaflets, application forms and decision letters. To request a review of a decision, applicants need to write to Jobcentre Plus. A review is then conducted which normally involves an interview over the telephone. If after the review decision, they are still dissatisfied with the outcome of their application they can write to the Independent Review Service for a further review.

I hope this is helpful.

### Departmental Flexible Working

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in the Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164329]

**Mrs. McGuire:** For the last full year for which headcount statistics are held (year ending 31 December 2006), 41,187 (33.9 per cent.) of employees in the Department for Work and Pensions, and its executive agencies, worked part-time. Included within that figure are employees taking advantage of the various options available to employees to assist their work/life balance—term-time working, compressed working weeks, job sharing, and home working, in addition to what is normally regarded as part-time working. We do not collect the figures for those who have applied to work part-time.

The Department has in place a process which allows parents, adopters, guardians or foster carers of children under six years of age or of disabled children under the age of 18, and for carers of adults, to apply to work flexibly in line with legislation. It additionally accepts requests from any employee with over 26 weeks in the Department who wishes to apply to work a flexible working pattern. Any employee with over 26 weeks in the Department may apply to change working pattern twice a year.

Flexible start and finish times are offered by all businesses within the Department, with the details of each scheme being tailored to their business requirements. Employees and their managers are thus able to accommodate informal arrangements where the

needs of the Department and the individual can both be accommodated, without the need for recording a formal change to working pattern.

**Departmental NDPBs**

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163613]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information requested with regard to the non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found on the Department's internet site at the following location

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/ndpb/public_bodies.asp#ndpb.

**Departments: Disabled**

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 784-9W, on departments: disabled, where the information on which of the buildings of which his Department is the major occupier are fully accessible to disabled people is held; and how many of the buildings of which his Department is the major occupier have had audits to determine whether they are fully accessible to disabled people. [163968]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Accessibility audits were commissioned in 2004 for all of the 1,191 buildings where my Department is the major occupier. The resultant national programme of works to improve access for disabled people was completed in 2006. Building accessibility is subject to review annually. Information on building accessibility is held at individual site level.

**Departments: Official Hospitality**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will break down the figures referred to in the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 237W, on Departments: official hospitality, giving the amount spent on each function at which hospitality expenses were incurred. [162194]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information requested is not available centrally in the format requested and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

**Jobcentre Plus: Advisory Services**

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of advice given by Jobcentre Plus that was provided *(a)* face-to-face, *(b)* by letter, *(c)* online and *(d)* by telephone in the last period for which figures are available. [163580]

**Caroline Flint:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Leslie Strathie, dated 26 November 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning what estimate has been made of the proportion of advice given by Jobcentre Plus that was provided face to face, by letter, online and by telephone in the last period for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I have not made an estimate of the proportion of advice provided by Jobcentre Plus face to face, by letter, online or by telephone. This information is not routinely collected and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps his Department takes to monitor how Jobcentre Plus personal advisers spend their working time; and if he will make a statement; [163582]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of diary support officers on the amount of time that personal advisers at Jobcentre Plus are able to spend with clients. [163590]

**Caroline Flint:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 26 November 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the steps being taken to monitor how Jobcentre Plus personal advisers spend their working time and what assessment has been made of the effect of diary support officers on the amount of time that personal advisers at Jobcentre Plus are able to spend with clients. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus monitors the use of personal advisers working time with an internal tool— the Adviser Achievement Tool.

The Adviser Achievement Tool sets national benchmark levels on the number of interviews expected and activities that should take place in these interviews. Advisers who do not meet the minimum standards must agree an Adviser Improvement Plan with their manager. The plan records appropriate, specific, timebound actions the adviser will take, with support from their manager, to improve their performance.

In September 2006 Jobcentre Plus put in place a new Advisory Services Model to support Personal Advisers, which introduced the Diary Administrative Support Officer job role.

A review of the new Advisory Services Model concluded that its introduction has led to better support for Personal Advisers and freed up time to spend with customers. As an example, Personal Advisers' telephones are now routinely transferred to Diary Administrative Support officers during interviews to minimise interruptions.

The clearest indication that the new Advisory Services model is working can be seen in the increased Advisory productivity rates. End of year performance to 2006/07 indicated an increase from 28 to 30 interviews per week per adviser.

I hope this is helpful.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is provided to Jobcentre Plus personal advisers to enable them to meet the demands of clients with unusual or distinct needs. [163587]

**Caroline Flint:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Leslie Strathie, dated 26 November 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning what training is provided to Jobcentre Plus personal advisers to enable them to meet the demands of clients with unusual or distinct needs. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has a comprehensive programme of blended learning designed to equip advisers with the full range of knowledge and skills required to support all customers. Our training package provides the adviser with the key knowledge and skills to interview customers and enable them to work effectively with specific customer groups, for example, lone parents, and people who are sick or have a disability.

In addition, those advisers who work with disabled customers receive additional training to equip them with the necessary skills to support the most disadvantaged, disabled customers move towards sustained employment.

I hope this is helpful.

### National Insurance: Elderly

**Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* women aged 60 and over and *(b)* men aged 65 and over will have accrued 30 years national insurance contributions before April 2010. [164651]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The latest information available indicates that at the end of the financial year 2003-04 there were around 60,000 women and around 10,000 men between state pension age and age 80 who had accrued exactly 30 qualifying years for basic state pension.

*Notes:*

1. Figures refer to people who are estimated to be resident in the UK in 2003-04.

2. Entitlement to basic state pension depends on a number of factors including the number of qualifying years accrued, Home Responsibilities Protection and the spouse's contribution record.

3. Detailed information is not available for people aged 80 and over due to archiving of records from the National Insurance Recording System.

*Source:*

Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2003-04

### Older Workers

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what form the 50+ face-to-face guidance work options pilot project is expected to take; [164384]

(2) how many people aged 50 years will be consulted by each of the six contractors participating in the 50+ face-to-face guidance work options pilot project. [164385]

**Caroline Flint:** The pilot will look at innovative ways of encouraging people to seek information when they are thinking about how and when to retire as well as making use of flexible working options to help them remain in work or work for longer. It will test different communication methods depending on the geographical area and population and will focus on the delivery of face-to-face guidance tailored to the particular needs of the individual. The contractors will use their knowledge of the local labour market, employers, and other organisations in the local area to design and test out different formats.

In addition, this will test how many people aged 50 and over will be attracted to take up the guidance on offer by each of the contractors. We will be closely monitoring levels of participation generated by each of the contractors.

### Pension Credit: Overpayments

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many overpayments there were of pension credits in each of the last three years; what the average sum involved was; and how much has been or is expected to be recouped from the executors of deceased pension credits claimants. [1] [163335]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The information relating to the volumes and average value of all pension credit overpayments identified in the last three years are in the following table:

| | *Volume* | *Average value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 23,000 | 240 |
| 2005-06 | 59,000 | 230 |
| 2006-07 | 169,000 | 547 |

The large increase in overpayments identified in 2006-07 reflects the Department's effort in improving the management and recovery of overpayments and in reducing error in the benefits system, including the identification and removal of error from the pension credit caseload. The increase in average value in 2006-07 is due to the priority attached to tackling high value error and the fact that overpayments identified could have existed since the introduction of pension credit in October 2003.

Information relating to how much has been recovered from executors of deceased pension credit claimants is only available from 2006, and is in the following table. Information relating to how much is expected to be recouped is not available.

| | *Amount recovered (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 4,869,000 |

### Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Financial Assistance Scheme has paid out to members of pension schemes wound up before 6 April 2005 with insufficient funds to cover all entitlements since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [167151]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Financial Assistance Scheme has paid out a total of £10,244,178 to 3,243 members of qualifying schemes as of 16 November 2007.

1. *[Official Report, 3 March 2008, Vol. 472, c. 21MC.]*

## Population

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage change in the working age population was in each year since 1977; and what the size of the working age population was in *(a)* 1977, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* 2006. [167625]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 November 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding the percentage change in the working age population in each year since 1997, and what the size of the working age population was in a) 1977, b) 1997 and c) 2006 (167625).

The attached table shows the working age population and the percentage change for the years requested. The latest population estimates available are for mid-2006.

*Table 1: Working age population[1] of England and Wales and annual percentage change*

| *Mid-year* | *Working age population[1]* | *Percentage change from previous year* |
|---|---|---|
| 1977 | 29,055,000 | — |
| 1997 | 31,473,000 | — |
| 1998 | 31,591,000 | 0.4 |
| 1999 | 31,771,000 | 0.6 |
| 2000 | 31,977,000 | 0.6 |
| 2001 | 32,226,000 | 0.8 |
| 2002 | 32,435,000 | 0.6 |
| 2003 | 32,626,000 | 0.6 |
| 2004 | 32,856,000 | 0.7 |
| 2005 | 33,164,000 | 0.9 |
| 2006 | 33,417,000 | 0.8 |

[1] Working age population is 16-59 for females and 16-64 for males.
*Note:*
Data are rounded to the nearest 1,000.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Population: Pensioners

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated ratio of people of working age to pensioners was in each constituency in England in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007; and what the figure is expected to be in 2017. [167574]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 November 2007:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your questions regarding what the estimated ratio of working age to pensioners was in each constituency in England in (a) 1997 and (b) 2007; and what the figure is expected to be in 2017. (167574)

ONS does not have parliamentary constituency population estimates for the whole of England, for 1997 or 2007, or population projections for parliamentary constituencies. I am therefore unable to answer the questions asked.

## Social Fund

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether budgeting advice is offered to Social Fund claimants. [163499]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 26 November 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply direct to your question asking whether budgeting advice is offered to Social Fund claimants. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

At the outset of any new claim to benefit all clients are interviewed by advisers who will identify and address, where required, appropriate financial help. Furthermore, advisers are equipped with information on a range of organisations that can help with free financial and debt advice. Advisers can make appointments with the local Citizens Advice Bureau or other appropriate partner organisations. Jobcentre Plus continues to advise and support the customer throughout their claim.

For Social Fund applicants in particular, there is information in the budgeting loan decision letter on where to get help and advice. Also, the Social Fund part of the Jobcentre Plus website signposts customers to sources of money and debt advice.

In addition the "Now Let's Talk money" campaign was formally launched within DWP on 30/07/07. Its purpose is to help people who may not know that they can get free face-to-face money and debt advice and who do not normally have access to affordable credit and loans, credit union or basic bank accounts. "Now Let's Talk Money" is funded by the Treasury as part of a £126 million Financial Inclusion Fund to help people who are financially excluded.

I hope this is helpful.

## Social Security Benefits

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons his Department's Green Paper, "In Work, Better Off" did not consider options for a single system of working age benefits; and if he will make a statement. [163830]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Green Paper "In Work better off: next steps to full employment" looks to achieving the next steps to the Government's long-term aim of full employment. We continue to modernise the benefit system with major reform of housing benefit and incapacity benefit scheduled for next year.

We want to go further, but recognise that fundamental change to the system would take many years to implement and would affect most people. Change on this scale would require wide public debate and engagement and a degree of consensus if it is to be carried through. The Department will consider the best way to initiate such a public debate and will put forward proposals next year.

## Training: Older Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* over 55 years of age and *(b)* in retirement have made use of (i) grants and (ii) training schemes available through his Department to learn new job skills in each of the last three years. [163676]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is not available.

## Unemployment: Young People

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people were not in education, employment or training in each local authority area in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [164778]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department's estimate of the number and proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) cannot be disaggregated to regional or local authority level. However, we can give an indication of the number of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds[1] NEET in 2006 in England from data provided by Connexions services, and this is given in the table. Figures for 1997 are not available.

Data provided by Connexions services are used to set and monitor local authority NEET targets. However, it should be noted that figures are calculated on a different basis from that used in the Department's estimates, and therefore do not give the same totals.

[1] Connexions service figures relate to calendar age (rather than academic age as is used in the Department's participation estimates).

*Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET: 2006* [1]

| | *16 to 18-year-olds NEET* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Estimated number* | *Percentage* |
| *South-east* | | |
| Bracknell Forest | 180 | 6.4 |
| Reading | 400 | 7.3 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 140 | 4.2 |
| Slough | 240 | 5.4 |
| West Berkshire | 240 | 5.2 |
| Wokingham | 150 | 4.8 |
| Kent | 2,970 | 6.4 |
| Medway | 620 | 6.1 |
| Buckinghamshire | 450 | 3.2 |
| Milton Keynes | 490 | 6.5 |
| Oxfordshire | 900 | 4.8 |
| Portsmouth | 460 | 9.9 |
| Southampton | 640 | 9.4 |
| Isle of Wight | 260 | 5.9 |
| Hampshire | 2,140 | 5.2 |
| Surrey | 960 | 3.3 |
| Brighton and Hove | 710 | 10.9 |
| East Sussex | 1,170 | 8.0 |
| West Sussex | 1,050 | 4.5 |
| London | | |
| Camden | 380 | 7.5 |
| Islington | 550 | 8.6 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 190 | 7.9 |
| Lambeth | 510 | 10.5 |
| Southwark | 610 | 11.7 |
| Wandsworth | 400 | 6.0 |
| Westminster | 260 | 6.5 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 730 | 11.4 |
| Bexley | 480 | 6.9 |
| City of London | 10 | 1.1 |
| Greenwich | 840 | 12.0 |
| Hackney | 670 | 13.1 |
| Havering | 590 | 6.1 |
| Lewisham | 500 | 6.7 |
| Newham | 950 | 10.8 |
| Redbridge | 430 | 4.8 |
| Tower Hamlets | 680 | 10.9 |
| Barnet | 510 | 4.8 |
| Enfield | 690 | 7.0 |
| Haringey | 630 | 12.5 |
| Waltham Forest | 540 | 6.3 |
| Bromley | 510 | 5.0 |
| Croydon | 830 | 8.1 |
| Kingston | 180 | 3.4 |
| Merton | 200 | 6.7 |
| Richmond | 140 | 4.0 |
| Sutton | 340 | 4.8 |
| Brent | 450 | 6.7 |
| Ealing | 500 | 7.8 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 280 | 8.4 |
| Harrow | 360 | 5.3 |
| Hillingdon | 710 | 7.0 |
| Hounslow | 600 | 8.3 |
| East of England | | |
| Bedfordshire | 920 | 7.2 |
| Luton | 620 | 9.4 |
| Cambridgeshire | 900 | 5.4 |
| Peterborough | 610 | 9.5 |
| Essex | 2,890 | 6.9 |
| Thurrock | 450 | 7.8 |
| Southend | 530 | 7.0 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,670 | 4.6 |
| Norfolk | 2,040 | 7.9 |
| Suffolk | 1,780 | 8.4 |
| South-west | | |
| Bournemouth | 400 | 8.5 |
| Dorset | 770 | 6.8 |
| Poole | 290 | 6.2 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 1,060 | 6.1 |
| Devon | 1,300 | 6.0 |
| Plymouth | 710 | 7.4 |
| Torbay | 320 | 6.8 |
| Gloucestershire | 920 | 4.6 |
| Somerset | 760 | 4.8 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 260 | 4.2 |
| Bristol | 950 | 7.8 |
| North Somerset | 250 | 4.8 |
| South Gloucestershire | 390 | 5.0 |
| Swindon | 580 | 8.3 |
| Wiltshire | 740 | 6.0 |
| West Midlands | | |
| Birmingham | 3,920 | 11.4 |
| Solihull | 690 | 8.0 |
| Dudley | 840 | 6.4 |
| Sandwell | 1,140 | 15.6 |

*Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET: 2006* [1]

| | *16 to 18-year-olds NEET* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Estimated number* | *Percentage* |
| Walsall | 870 | 9.1 |
| Wolverhampton | 960 | 10.8 |
| Coventry | 950 | 8.7 |
| Warwickshire | 1,150 | 6.7 |
| Herefordshire | 290 | 5.5 |
| Worcestershire | 920 | 5.5 |
| Shropshire | 450 | 5.2 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 530 | 9.1 |
| Staffordshire | 2,050 | 7.6 |
| Stoke on Trent | 1,430 | 16.1 |
| East Midlands | | |
| Derby | 710 | 8.4 |
| Derbyshire | 1,480 | 7.1 |
| Leicester | 1,200 | 9.9 |
| Leicestershire | 1,080 | 5.5 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,130 | 5.0 |
| Rutland | 10 | 2.0 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,420 | 6.4 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,220 | 4.9 |
| Nottingham | 930 | 8.0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | | |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 620 | 5.6 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 1,330 | 14.1 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 660 | 9.8 |
| North Lincolnshire | 570 | 9.2 |
| Barnsley | 900 | 12.3 |
| Doncaster | 1,180 | 11.5 |
| Rotherham | 1,130 | 10.8 |
| Sheffield | 1,680 | 10.5 |
| Bradford | 1,560 | 9.8 |
| Calderdale | 640 | 9.7 |
| Kirklees | 1,420 | 9.7 |
| Leeds | 2,170 | 9.1 |
| Wakefield | 1,230 | 10.6 |
| York | 420 | 5.9 |
| North Yorkshire | 880 | 4.8 |
| North-west | | |
| Cheshire | 1,260 | 5.4 |
| Warrington | 450 | 7.0 |
| Cumbria | 950 | 5.8 |
| Bolton | 1,170 | 12.7 |
| Bury | 550 | 8.0 |
| City of Manchester | 1,760 | 11.4 |
| Oldham | 750 | 8.8 |
| Rochdale | 720 | 12.1 |
| Salford | 750 | 10.2 |
| Stockport | 810 | 8.8 |
| Trafford | 490 | 7.3 |
| Tameside | 720 | 9.1 |
| Wigan | 1,140 | 9.9 |
| Halton | 540 | 11.8 |
| Knowsley | 690 | 13.7 |
| Liverpool | 2,040 | 13.2 |
| Sefton | 870 | 7.6 |
| St. Helens | 680 | 10.0 |
| Wirral | 1,210 | 10.0 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 600 | 8.6 |
| Blackpool | 620 | 8.8 |
| Lancashire | 2,820 | 7.5 |
| North-east | | |
| Durham | 2,060 | 12.9 |
| Northumberland | 980 | 10.0 |
| Darlington | 330 | 6.7 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 610 | 9.9 |
| Middlesbrough | 870 | 13.7 |
| Hartlepool | 400 | 11.1 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 610 | 11.9 |
| Sunderland | 1,320 | 13.3 |
| Gateshead | 750 | 12.3 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 1,120 | 9.4 |
| North Tyneside | 700 | 11.4 |
| South Tyneside | 550 | 11.3 |

[1] 2006 data are an average

*Notes:*

1. 16 to 18-year-olds known to be undertaking a Gap Year, or in custody, are not recorded by Connexions as NEET
2. The percentage and number NEET has been adjusted to assume that a proportion of young people whose current activity is not known are NEET.

## Carers: Voucher Schemes

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment his Department has made of an employer-supported care voucher scheme on his Department's target to increase the employment rate of people over 50 years; and if he will make a statement; [162302]

(2) what consideration he has given to the effect of care responsibilities on women in work; and if he will assess the potential of a care voucher scheme, similar to that in operation for child care, to enable carers to balance better work and caring. [162410]

**Jane Kennedy:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government are keen to ensure that people with caring responsibilities can make the most of opportunities to balance work with their caring responsibilities.

They will look carefully at the costs and benefits of any further proposals, including whether it is the most effective mechanism for tackling the issues faced by carers, particularly those experienced by specific groups, when making an assessment of the case for intervention in this area.

The Government keep tax reliefs under review and has received representations in this area. However, they does not believe that allowing employers to provide employees with tax and NICs free care vouchers is the most appropriate, fair or cost-effective way of tackling the issues faced by carers.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Housing: Property Transfer

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for gap funding have been received in the latest round of housing stock transfers, broken down by local authority area. [164915]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning mentioned in her answer to a question from my hon. Friend on 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1646W, 22 applications for places on the 2006 Housing Transfer programme were received from 14 local authorities in respect of housing stock which have a negative valuation. The list of authorities is given in the following table.

*2006 Disposals programme*

| *Local authority* | |
|---|---|
| Brighton and Hove city council | Whole |
| Castle Morpeth | Whole |
| Chester-le-Street | Whole |
| London borough of Havering—Mardyke | Partial |
| Manchester-East Area | Partial |
| Manchester-Inner South | Partial |
| Manchester-South | Partial |
| North West Leicestershire | Whole |
| Plymouth | Whole |
| Ribble Valley | Whole |
| Salford | Whole |
| Sheffield—Harold Lambert and Manor Park | Partial |
| Sheffield—Richmond Park | Partial |
| Sheffield—Woodthorpe and Lower Manor | Partial |
| Sheffield—Wybourn | Partial |
| Tamworth | Whole |
| Torridge | Whole |
| Tower Hamlets—Chicksand East | Partial |
| Tower Hamlets—Digby and Greenways | Partial |
| Tower Hamlets—Libra Parnell | Partial |
| Tower Hamlets—St. Stephens Estate | Partial |
| Wansbeck | Whole |

### Expenditure: Bournemouth

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money has been allocated by the Government office of the south west to the Bournemouth area in each of the last five years. [167508]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Most Communities and Local Government funding allocations are decided centrally rather than by Government offices. However Government office for the south-west has had responsibility for administering the £169 million European Social Fund regional programme over the last five years.

Due to the nature of the funding arrangements it is difficult to disaggregate amounts specifically for Bournemouth, because the funding is allocated on the basis of the boundaries used by Learning and Skills Council and Jobcentre Plus which for this area cover Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset. Some projects operate in just one area, some in all three local authority areas and some are regional. Government office has allocated £13.4 million to projects operating across this area over the period. Of this amount £6.4 million has been allocated directly by GOSW and a further £7 million has been allocated to the area through the Learning and Skills Council and Jobcentre Plus.

Specific information on the value of projects in Bournemouth could be provided but would require mapping the detail of individual projects. It would be too costly to obtain information at this level of detail.

### Housing: Energy

**Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many qualified domestic energy assessors there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* the Maldon district. [163086]

**Yvette Cooper:** The most recent data as at 5 November provide the following information on the number of accredited domestic energy assessors in England, Essex and the Maldon district.

| | *Domestic energy assessors* |
|---|---|
| England | 4,995 |
| Essex | 164 |
| Maldon | 4 |

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what further steps she plans to take to increase the supply of *(a)* affordable shared equity and rented family homes and *(b)* key worker housing in (i) East Worthing and Shoreham and (ii) across West Sussex. [161910]

**Yvette Cooper:** In June 2007, we published the Housing Green Paper: "Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable" in which I announced £8 billion for affordable housing during the comprehensive spending review period. This represents a 38 per cent. increase on current spending. The funding will enable us to deliver 70,000 more affordable homes by 2010. We are also committed to providing 45,000 new affordable homes for rent by 2010-11 (a 50 per cent. increase) and 25,000 shared ownership and shared equity homes a year funded by the Housing Corporation. In addition, we will look to support additional shared ownership homes through public sector land and local housing companies.

Since April 2006, key workers have priority access to all of the Government's low cost home ownership products. Regional Housing Assemblies can focus resources where local need is greatest for example by prioritising key worker groups for assistance. We are currently waiting for the Regional Housing Board's recommendations on how investment should be spent over the next three years in the south east.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the number of key workers living in East Worthing and Shoreham; [161911]

(2) how many key workers were housed through the Key Worker Living Scheme in East Worthing and Shoreham in each year since the scheme's inception, broken down by key worker profession; [161912]

(3) how many key workers were provided with *(a)* Open Market HomeBuy, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy and *(c)* an intermediate rental through the Key Worker Living Scheme in East Worthing and Shoreham in each year since its inception; [161915]

(4) how many key workers in East Worthing and Shoreham are awaiting support via the Key Worker Living Scheme; and how many of those on waiting lists are listed for *(a)* Open Market HomeBuy, *(b)* New Build HomeBuy and *(c)* intermediate rental. [161916]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information at constituency level is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact on public sector recruitment and retention of the Key Worker Living Scheme in *(a)* East Worthing and Shoreham and *(b)* West Sussex; and if she will make a statement. [161917]

**Yvette Cooper:** DCLG commissioned an independent evaluation of the Key Worker Living (KWL) Scheme which was published in September 2006. The evaluation was undertaken by GHK Consulting and the Centre for Urban and Regional studies at the University of Birmingham.

The study found that the KWL scheme is making a positive contribution towards improving recruitment and retention of key workers.

It is for individual Departments and the regional assemblies to assess the impact on public sector recruitment and retention in specific regions.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what percentage of the funding available for key worker housing was given to the provision of housing in *(a)* East Worthing and Shoreham and *(b)* West Sussex in each year since 2004; and what percentage of this funding was provided for (i) Open Market HomeBuy, (ii) New Build HomeBuy and (iii) intermediate rental; [161919]

(2) what percentage of funding available for key worker housing in *(a)* East Worthing and Shoreham and *(b)* West Sussex was provided for (i) open market solutions and (ii) new build schemes. [161920]

**Yvette Cooper:** Funding allocations for the Key Worker Living programme were set in 2004 for the period 2004-05 to 2005-06. Of the funding available for key worker housing in the south east, 11 per cent. was given to the provision of housing in the county of West Sussex.

The following table shows the percentage of funding available for key worker housing that was allocated in the county of West Sussex (which includes the local authorities of Worthing and Adur) for (i) Open Market HomeBuy, (ii) New Build HomeBuy and (iii) intermediate rental.

*2004-06*

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| New Build | 19 |
| Intermediate Rent | 2 |
| Open Market HomeBuy[1] | 80 |

[1] 2004-06 Open Market HomeBuy includes Kent, East and West Sussex as part of the HomeBuy zone

Since April 2006, the Government no longer allocate funds for schemes specifically designated for key workers. Key workers now have priority access to all of the Government's low-cost home ownership products.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the work of HomeBuy agents is tracked and monitored. [162220]

**Yvette Cooper:** HomeBuy Agents provide a one-stop-shop service for assessing eligibility and marketing low-cost home ownership schemes. HomeBuy agents are required to provide the Housing Corporation with a monthly self-assessment of compliance against Key Performance Standards, which are monitored by the Housing Corporation.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the potential impact on vulnerable people of the changes to private sector housing renewal funding in the south west; what effect this is likely to have on the decent homes standard; and if she will make a statement. [163936]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** No final decisions have been made on funding for private sector housing renewal in the south west. We are currently considering advice from the regional assemblies on funding priorities for their areas. Through the Comprehensive Spending Review £789 million has been made available in the south west through the regional housing pot over the next three years to fund housing capital programmes including those for private sector renewal. The region's allocation for the period ending 2010-11 is 50 per cent. higher than that for 2007-08. We remain committed to making funding available for private sector decent homes and in seeking the regional assemblies' priorities for funding we have asked them to continue to prioritise those most in need.

## Housing: Publications

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the National Audit Office's Housing Market Renewal report; and if she will make a statement. [166236]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* We note the main conclusions in the NAO report, that across the programme the pathfinders have been narrowing the gaps in house prices and vacancies with their regions, and that the pathfinder local authorities have been performing better than other local authorities with less severe problems of low demand not selected for the programme.

### Housing: Standards

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities do not have a strategy for meeting the decent homes standard. [164840]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** All local authorities with the exception of Camden council, have a signed off options appraisal for their stock. Camden are currently working on their strategy for delivery.

The following local authorities are currently revisiting their options appraisal: Castle Point, Brighton and Hove, Crawley, Croydon, Ellesmere Port and Neston, Mid Devon, NW Leicestershire, Plymouth, Stroud, Tamworth, Waveney and Wycombe.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of homes that *(a)* did and *(b)* did not reach the decent homes standard at the most recent date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [165781]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Our latest estimates for all homes in England is that 5,987,000 (27.5 per cent.) are non-decent and 15,795,000 (72.5 per cent.) are decent. These figures are for 2005 and are derived from the English House Condition Survey and were published on 6 June 2007.

In 1997 there were approximately 8,700,000 non-decent homes (42 per cent.) and 12,014,000 decent homes (58 per cent.).

### Local Authorities: Crime Prevention

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to local authorities to compel landowners to take steps to secure their land in order to prevent it from being used for antisocial and criminal purposes. [162230]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We do not know of any specific powers that could be used by local authorities to compel landowners to take steps to secure their land in order to prevent it from being used for antisocial and criminal purposes. However, there may be practical advice that local authorities can give to landowners whose land is at risk of being used for such activities. In addition, local authorities have powers under section 222 of the Local Government Act 1972 to bring legal proceedings on behalf of local communities. Authorities may wish to seek advice from their lawyers as to whether there is any right of action in relation to unsecured land. It should be noted that proceedings under section 222 can be used to take out injunctions against antisocial behaviour and where an injunction is granted, the court may, under section 91 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, attach a power of arrest to such injunctions.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, the hon. Member for Hartlepool, to reply to the letters of 29 August 2007 and 22 October 2007 from the hon. Member for North Durham. [168219]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have now replied to my hon. Friend's correspondence.

### Public Lavatories

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department expects to publish *(a)* the research on public toilet provision undertaken by the Government with the British Toilet Association and *(b)* a strategy for increasing public toilet provision; and if she will make a statement. [167763]

**Mr. Dhanda:** We expect to publish a Strategic Guide on Public Access to Toilets early in the new year.

### Regeneration: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to promote regeneration in the West Midlands since 1997. [167511]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Considerable central Government regeneration funds have been made available to the West Midlands since 1997—in total some £850 million. The main components are:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| Neighbourhood Renewal Fund 2003-08 | 306.54 |
| Neighbourhood Element 2006-10 | 12.23 |
| Cleaner Safer Greener Fund 2006-08 | 6.3 |
| Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder 2004-10 | 7.2 |
| New Deal for Communities (10-year programme to 2010) | 319.5 |
| Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder (set to 2008) | 200.00 |

Since Advantage West Midlands was established in 1999 it has between 1999-2000 and 2006-07 spent over £1.6 billion in connection with economic regeneration activity in the region. Advantage West Midlands' budget allocation for 2007-09 is around £296 million.

### Sleeping Rough

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her Department's latest estimate is of the number of people sleeping rough who are from a black or minority ethnic community; [165785]

(2) what her Department's latest estimate is of the number of people sleeping rough who have been in prison; [165784]

(3) what her Department's latest estimate is of the number of people sleeping rough who have been in the armed forces; [165783]

(4) what her Department's latest estimate is of the number of people sleeping rough who have a *(a)* mental illness and *(b)* addiction. [165782]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There has been major progress in tackling the worst form of homelessness, that of people sleeping on the streets. Since 1998 we have reduced rough sleeping by 73 per cent. Partnership working between central and local government, the voluntary sector and other organisations working with homeless

people has been the key to the successful reduction in rough sleeping. The focus has been on providing support and accommodation for those on the street to help them rebuild their lives and move back to independent living as well as on homelessness prevention to stop people arriving on the streets in the first place.

We publish an annual estimate of rough sleepers based on street counts, which does not include information on ethnicity, previous spells in prison or the armed forces or mental illness or addiction.

There is specific information for London provided under the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) recording system. In 2006-07, for those rough sleepers in London contacted by services, CHAIN information is as follows:

18 per cent. of rough sleepers were from a black or minority ethnic community;

39 per cent. of rough sleepers had spent time in prison in the past;

5 per cent. of rough sleepers had spent some time in the armed forces in the past;

48 per cent. of rough sleepers have an alcohol need;

41 per cent. have a drug support need; and

35 per cent. have a mental health need.

### Tees Valley Multi-Area Agreement

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of the Tees Valley Multi-Area Agreement; and if she will make a statement. [166595]

**John Healey:** The Tees Valley is one of 13 sub-regions with whom Government will be working on the development of a Multi-Area Agreement with a view to signing a final agreement by June 2008. The overall objective of MAAs is to facilitate the delivery of improved economic prosperity. As the Tees Valley MAA has not yet been signed, we have made no assessment of effects.

### Thames Gateway: London Communications Agency

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much Thames Gateway has paid to the London Communications Agency in fees to date; and how much it expects to pay (i) in the current financial year and (ii) over the remainder of the contracted period; and if she will make a statement; [167699]

(2) if she will place in the Library *(a)* a summary of Thames Gateway's contract with the London Communications Agency, with particular reference to (i) the range of functions it covers, (ii) the frequency with which work is to be provided and (iii) the staffing commitment and *(b)* examples of the Agency's work for Thames Gateway produced during the last 12 months. [167700]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Thames Gateway Executive does not have a contract with the London Communications Agency and currently has no plans to enter into one. No fee payments have therefore been made. It is open to the individual local regeneration partnerships and other organisations in the Thames Gateway to employ communication agencies directly.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Actis

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has been paid for investments made by Actis since it was part-privatised in 2002. [168144]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID has not been paid for investments made by Actis. Net proceeds from assets that are realised by Actis are returned to CDC for reinvestment in private companies in poorer countries.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the value is of his Department's investment in Actis. [168145]

**Mr. Malik:** The value of DFID's investment in Actis in DFID's resource accounts is £1.677 million.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has issued guidance to Actis on ethical criteria for its investment funds. [168146]

**Mr. Malik:** Responsible investment principles were set and agreed with DFID when Actis was established. These are monitored and controlled by a Business Principles Committee made up of non-executive directors. Full information on Actis' Environmental, Social and Governance Framework is available on the company's website at http://act.is/profile/responsible_investment.asp

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's profit share arrangement with Actis is; what dividend payments have been received under that arrangement; and what profit share arrangements are proposed after 2009. [168148]

**Mr. Malik:** The minority 40 per cent. interest entitles the Department to an 80 per cent. share of Actis profits until 2013. Thereafter the Department will be entitled to 40 per cent. of profits in line with its percentage interest. To date, no dividend payments have been made under this arrangement.

### Actis: Pay

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish the salary, bonus and fee packages of each director and senior management team member of Actis. [168147]

**Mr. Malik:** The Remuneration Committee of the Actis Supervisory Board is responsible for determining the firm's policy on remuneration. Total remuneration (salaries and bonus payment) for the working members of Actis is detailed in the Report of the Members and Consolidated Financial Statements published with Companies House.

### Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any *(a)* UK and *(b)* UN reports have been completed on international aid wastage rates in Afghanistan and instances of corruption in the disbursement of aid. [167399]

**Mr. Malik:** According to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) 75 per cent. of aid to Afghanistan is spent outside government systems. This leads to a large degree of aid wastage and inefficiency.

The Peace Dividend Trust, in a study recently funded by DFID, found that aid spent through government systems was four times more effective than funds spent through international companies or NGOs. This is one of the reasons why DFID currently puts over 80 per cent. of its bilateral aid programme through government systems. We are unaware of any specific UN reports on international aid wastage rates in Afghanistan.

There have been no reports undertaken by the UK or the UN into instances of corruption in the disbursement of aid.

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports and studies have been conducted by his Department on UK-funded reconstruction initiatives in Afghanistan. [167250]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID recently funded a study by the Peace Dividend Trust entitled 'Afghanistan Compact Procurement Monitoring Project', the purpose of which was to measure the impact of international assistance to Afghanistan. It found that aid spent through the Government of Afghanistan's systems was four times more effective than funds spent through international companies or NGOs. This is one of the reasons why DFID currently puts over 80 per cent. of its bilateral aid programme through government systems.

In 2005, DFID commissioned King's College London to undertake a review of its support to Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs). The purpose of the review was to make recommendations on future engagement with PRTs. The review recommended the deployment of three Development Advisers to PRTs focussing on Helmand as a priority and the existing programme was reconfigured to better articulate DFID's approach to stabilisation.

DFID also provides funding to the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), an independent research institution that conducts and facilitates research to improve practice and increase the impact of humanitarian and development programmes in Afghanistan. DFID uses research findings to inform policy.

### Departmental Food

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166650]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer the hon. Member to the data published in the report deposited in the House of Commons' Library on 8 November 2007 that give the proportion of UK produce supplied to Government Departments, the NHS and HM Prison Service. A copy of the report is also available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/govt-food-usage.pdf

### Departmental Property

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164369]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development has spent the following amounts on renovation and refurbishments of its UK offices. Much of the expenditure is attributable to a major refurbishment of our East Kilbride office during the earlier years.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 4,122,660 |
| 2003-04 | 8,954,590 |
| 2004-05 | 4,774,460 |
| 2005-06 | 982,250 |
| 2006-07 | 43,574 |

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [167302]

**Mr. Malik:** The last 12-month period for which figures are available is October 2006 to October 2007. Between October 2006 and April 2007 the Publicity and Marketing Unit was part of the Building Support for Development team. Figures for this period cannot be disaggregated.

Between April 2007 and October 2007 staff costs for the campaigns and marketing team were £218,756, which includes costs for overtime, travelling time and pension and national insurance contributions.

### Developing Countries: Abortion

**Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the provision of safe abortions in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [165324]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID recognises that unsafe abortion is a major cause of maternal death and ill-health and believes that no woman should die or suffer as a result of unsafe abortion. A woman should have access to services and care that are safe, humane, accessible and respectful of her decision. She should also be able to access services for safely and effectively managing the complications arising from induced or spontaneous

abortion. Lowering abortion-related maternal deaths is a key way to reduce maternal mortality (Millennium Development Goal 5) given that nearly all deaths from unsafe abortion are preventable.

DFID agrees that abortion should never be promoted as a means of family planning in line with the consensus agreed at the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. Women and men should be able to access and choose good quality contraceptives to prevent unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

### Developing Countries: Common Sugar Regime

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries he expects to receive EU funding following the completion of national sugar action plans, as referred to in the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 8-9W, on ACP and developing countries: common sugar regime. [165899]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Sugar Protocol was signed between the European Union and 18 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries: Barbados, Belize, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Fiji, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, St. Kitts and Nevis, Swaziland, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

According to the European Commission all 18 countries will benefit from the transitional assistance for sugar, although the amount allocated to each country will vary. The amount allocated to each country is based on two criteria: the impact of the sugar reform on the sugar sector of the country concerned and the importance of the sugar sector to the economy. The countries were required to draw up a national sugar adaptation strategy to show how they will spend their allocation.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the likely decline in value of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, as referred to in the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 8-9W, on ACP and developing countries: common sugar regime preferences. [165900]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID has commissioned a number of independent studies looking at the impact of the reform of the European Union (EU) sugar market on the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries that export sugar to the EU. The studies show that the impact of the sugar reform will not fall uniformly on the sugar protocol countries. Some countries will benefit with the opportunity to increase the volume of their sugar export to the EU market under the duty free and quota free market access offer. In other countries sugar may not continue to be an economic industry. Indeed some ACP countries have already taken that decision and are withdrawing from sugar production. We have always been clear that such countries will require transitional assistance. It is not possible to estimate the size of the impact on the individual ACP countries. This will depend on other decisions that they make in response to the reform.

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations have received technical and financial support from his Department to assist in drawing up their individual sugar action plans as referred to in the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 8-9W, on ACP and developing countries: common sugar regime. [165901]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID provided financial support totalling £200,000 for six Caribbean countries: Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis and Jamaica to draw up their national sugar action plans.

### Iraq: Politics and Government

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Iraq. [168545]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID is very concerned about the humanitarian situation in Iraq and among refugees in the wider region. Many Iraqis are denied adequate protection and access to basic services. There is a lack of reliable information about the situation. However, the UN estimates that over two million people are internally displaced, with a further two million displaced across the region, 80 per cent. of whom are in Syria and Jordan. UNHCR is investigating reports of increased refugee returns from Syria, and the reasons behind such returns. We await the outcome of this work.

DFID is supporting the delivery of emergency relief and protection through contributions to internationally mandated humanitarian agencies. We have recently allocated an additional £5 million to these efforts, bringing our overall humanitarian commitment for Iraq to over £130 million since 2003 and £15 million this year.

### Opinion Leader Research

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and its report to the Department in each case. [165268]

**Mr. Malik:** In 1998, DFID commissioned Opinion Leader Research (OLR) to undertake baseline focus group research among the UK public at a cost of £43,000. In 2002, we funded a project with OLR and the BBC, which involved use of focus groups in the UK to analyse public understanding of international news stories at a cost of £38,247. In 2003, DFID commissioned OLR to undertake further focus group research to explore ways of increasing understanding and support for international development in the UK at a cost of £50,309.

No subsequent contracts were awarded to OLR. Specific dates when contracts were tendered, let, carried out and completed are not held centrally, and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

## Poverty: EU Action

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely effect of proposed EU Economic Partnership Agreements on the Government's targets to reduce global poverty. [167061]

**Mr. Thomas:** Growth is important for poverty reduction. Economic Partnership Agreements can deliver growth and development and help countries trade their way out of poverty. In recent years, many of the fastest growing countries, in east Asia particularly, have opened up their borders to international trade. EPAs can increase access for developing country exports into European Union (EU) markets, which is one of their largest export markets. EPAs should also increase trading opportunities and collaboration with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) regions themselves and promote integration into the global economy.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Adult Education

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adults *(a)* enrolled in adult and community learning programmes and *(b)* participated in further education in each (i) borough and (ii) region in each year since 1997. [166859]

**Mr. Lammy:** Figures for adults (aged 19 and above) participating in further education (FE) and adult and community learning (ACL) programmes can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The FE ILR was collated for the first time in 2002-03 and figures are given from that time. Regional and local authority breakdowns for learners on ACL programmes could be provided only at disproportionate cost and are therefore not included.

*Adult learner numbers in further education by region1 and local authority[1]*

Thousand

| | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Region* | | | | |
| North East | 224.2 | 226.5 | 239.8 | 185.8 |
| North West | 474.8 | 459.9 | 461.7 | 373.2 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 354.6 | 363.9 | 376.3 | 305.5 |
| East Midlands | 342.8 | 349.6 | 346.3 | 277.7 |
| West Midlands | 442.0 | 417.5 | 416.6 | 366.2 |
| East | 306.3 | 303.3 | 302.3 | 240.3 |
| London | 468.9 | 463.2 | 474.6 | 419.1 |
| South East | 454.8 | 449.8 | 431.2 | 344.5 |
| South West | 378.1 | 366.5 | 366.0 | 310.9 |
| *Local authority* | | | | |
| City of London | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Camden | 13.9 | 13.6 | 13.2 | 12.0 |
| Greenwich | 14.8 | 11.9 | 12.1 | 10.7 |
| Hackney | 16.1 | 15.9 | 17.1 | 15.0 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 9.5 | 9.6 | 10.3 | 8.9 |
| Islington | 14.5 | 14.4 | 14.2 | 12.3 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.4 | 7.2 |
| Lambeth | 22.5 | 21.8 | 22.4 | 20.2 |
| Lewisham | 18.4 | 17.5 | 17.6 | 15.7 |
| Southwark | 18.8 | 19.5 | 19.9 | 18.2 |
| Tower Hamlets | 13.2 | 13.4 | 14.5 | 12.7 |
| Wandsworth | 14.5 | 14.9 | 15.1 | 12.8 |
| Westminster | 12.6 | 12.9 | 12.7 | 11.5 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 9.8 | 10.4 | 11.0 | 9.9 |
| Barnet | 22.0 | 20.9 | 24.0 | 22.1 |
| Bexley | 11.1 | 10.4 | 10.2 | 8.1 |
| Brent | 19.8 | 19.9 | 20.5 | 18.9 |
| Bromley | 16.0 | 16.1 | 15.5 | 14.0 |
| Croydon | 20.9 | 20.7 | 20.1 | 17.1 |
| Ealing | 17.3 | 17.6 | 18.5 | 17.1 |
| Enfield | 17.5 | 17.5 | 19.0 | 15.3 |
| Haringey | 19.2 | 18.9 | 20.2 | 18.0 |
| Harrow | 12.0 | 11.3 | 10.8 | 9.6 |
| Havering | 13.8 | 13.8 | 12.7 | 11.3 |
| Hillingdon | 10.4 | 10.1 | 10.3 | 9.0 |
| Hounslow | 13.1 | 13.4 | 13.0 | 11.3 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 7.0 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 6.1 |
| Merton | 9.2 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 8.9 |
| Newham | 21.2 | 21.0 | 21.8 | 21.1 |
| Redbridge | 13.3 | 13.6 | 14.2 | 12.0 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 10.9 | 10.9 | 10.3 | 7.9 |
| Sutton | 9.3 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 8.6 |
| Waltham Forest | 17.8 | 16.9 | 18.4 | 15.2 |
| Birmingham | 98.9 | 88.1 | 91.6 | 85.1 |
| Coventry | 24.2 | 24.5 | 24.9 | 22.2 |
| Dudley | 26.6 | 24.3 | 24.7 | 22.8 |
| Sandwell | 25.4 | 23.4 | 24.3 | 22.4 |
| Solihull | 15.4 | 13.9 | 13.8 | 11.2 |
| Walsall | 19.7 | 19.4 | 18.0 | 15.4 |
| Wolverhampton | 21.1 | 21.2 | 21.0 | 19.4 |
| Knowsley | 12.7 | 12.9 | 12.4 | 9.6 |
| Liverpool | 34.0 | 35.1 | 33.4 | 25.9 |
| St. Helens | 12.6 | 13.3 | 11.9 | 9.5 |
| Sefton | 22.9 | 23.6 | 21.1 | 16.2 |
| Wirral | 20.7 | 21.5 | 20.5 | 16.3 |
| Bolton | 17.3 | 15.7 | 14.4 | 10.9 |
| Bury | 12.9 | 12.6 | 12.4 | 10.1 |
| Manchester | 36.7 | 32.4 | 38.8 | 36.2 |
| Oldham | 15.0 | 14.5 | 14.6 | 11.2 |
| Rochdale | 13.1 | 12.9 | 12.9 | 11.7 |
| Salford | 14.9 | 15.5 | 16.5 | 12.5 |
| Stockport | 18.7 | 16.5 | 18.0 | 13.8 |
| Tameside | 15.7 | 14.7 | 14.6 | 11.2 |
| Trafford | 15.5 | 14.5 | 15.4 | 12.0 |
| Wigan | 19.7 | 18.3 | 17.2 | 13.8 |
| Barnsley | 15.9 | 16.0 | 16.3 | 14.3 |

*Adult learner numbers in further education by region1 and local authority[1]*

Thousand

| | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Doncaster | 22.1 | 23.2 | 25.5 | 19.7 |
| Rotherham | 18.9 | 18.7 | 18.9 | 15.7 |
| Sheffield | 33.9 | 36.1 | 42.2 | 35.1 |
| Bradford | 35.5 | 36.1 | 38.5 | 33.7 |
| Calderdale | 13.1 | 12.9 | 13.6 | 10.3 |
| Kirklees | 24.7 | 23.8 | 25.5 | 20.2 |
| Leeds | 46.1 | 49.1 | 47.8 | 42.0 |
| Wakefield | 20.2 | 22.1 | 22.3 | 18.1 |
| Gateshead | 20.3 | 20.3 | 20.0 | 14.2 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 26.1 | 25.7 | 28.7 | 23.5 |
| North Tyneside | 17.6 | 16.7 | 18.1 | 14.9 |
| South Tyneside | 14.5 | 15.0 | 15.5 | 12.5 |
| Sunderland | 26.3 | 24.1 | 24.3 | 17.1 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 11.4 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 9.1 |
| Bristol | 32.1 | 30.6 | 33.5 | 34.0 |
| North Somerset | 15.8 | 14.1 | 14.9 | 14.3 |
| South Gloucestershire | 16.3 | 16.3 | 14.7 | 13.7 |
| Hartlepool | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.9 | 6.9 |
| Middlesbrough | 11.6 | 12.6 | 13.2 | 10.3 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 11.7 | 11.8 | 12.1 | 9.8 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 16.1 | 15.2 | 15.5 | 13.2 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 22.9 | 23.0 | 24.6 | 19.5 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 25.8 | 25.3 | 24.6 | 18.3 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 15.5 | 16.2 | 15.5 | 11.9 |
| North Lincolnshire | 13.4 | 14.4 | 12.9 | 9.2 |
| North Yorkshire | 36.8 | 37.0 | 37.8 | 29.3 |
| York | 9.9 | 9.9 | 10.3 | 8.1 |
| Bedfordshire | 26.7 | 26.4 | 26.6 | 21.6 |
| Luton | 15.8 | 16.2 | 17.1 | 14.1 |
| Buckinghamshire | 24.0 | 23.3 | 22.6 | 18.0 |
| Milton Keynes | 13.9 | 14.2 | 14.8 | 12.0 |
| Derbyshire | 64.8 | 61.8 | 62.8 | 54.1 |
| Derby | 21.2 | 21.9 | 22.2 | 20.5 |
| Dorset | 29.1 | 27.9 | 26.1 | 20.5 |
| Poole | 9.2 | 8.3 | 10.2 | 8.0 |
| Bournemouth | 11.8 | 12.2 | 13.3 | 11.0 |
| Durham | 44.0 | 42.7 | 46.6 | 34.7 |
| Darlington | 7.3 | 7.4 | 8.2 | 5.5 |
| East Sussex | 29.8 | 27.2 | 25.0 | 21.0 |
| Brighton and Hove | 18.3 | 16.9 | 16.8 | 14.6 |
| Hampshire | 87.8 | 92.6 | 79.1 | 60.8 |
| Portsmouth | 14.4 | 15.5 | 13.4 | 10.8 |
| Southampton | 12.3 | 13.6 | 13.0 | 11.2 |
| Leicestershire | 48.4 | 47.2 | 47.0 | 36.9 |
| Leicester | 29.0 | 30.0 | 30.3 | 26.3 |
| Rutland | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 1.7 |
| Staffordshire | 60.2 | 57.3 | 57.5 | 49.1 |
| Stoke-on-Trent | 19.3 | 19.2 | 19.1 | 16.0 |

*Adult learner numbers in further education by region1 and local authority[1]*

Thousand

| | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wiltshire | 28.4 | 29.6 | 29.7 | 22.3 |
| Swindon | 11.5 | 10.5 | 11.5 | 10.8 |
| Bracknell Forest | 5.1 | 4.4 | 4.7 | 4.0 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 6.3 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 5.1 |
| West Berkshire | 7.8 | 7.0 | 6.8 | 6.0 |
| Reading | 7.3 | 7.3 | 8.0 | 7.7 |
| Slough | 5.9 | 5.5 | 6.1 | 5.9 |
| Wokingham | 7.3 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.1 |
| Cambridgeshire | 33.5 | 33.4 | 34.8 | 26.0 |
| Peterborough | 10.4 | 11.2 | 12.1 | 9.1 |
| Cheshire | 38.9 | 38.0 | 38.9 | 33.9 |
| Halton | 7.7 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 6.5 |
| Warrington | 12.2 | 12.4 | 12.5 | 11.0 |
| Devon | 48.9 | 48.8 | 47.4 | 35.4 |
| Plymouth | 23.3 | 20.9 | 20.2 | 18.3 |
| Torbay | 7.8 | 8.7 | 8.4 | 6.2 |
| Essex | 69.3 | 67.2 | 64.0 | 51.8 |
| Southend on Sea | 8.2 | 8.2 | 7.7 | 7.0 |
| Thurrock | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 5.3 |
| Herefordshire | 12.0 | 12.4 | 10.1 | 8.2 |
| Worcestershire | 43.4 | 40.4 | 38.5 | 37.5 |
| Kent | 74.7 | 68.2 | 72.9 | 56.9 |
| Medway | 13.1 | 11.6 | 11.8 | 8.6 |
| Lancashire | 81.6 | 79.0 | 76.8 | 60.1 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 10.7 | 9.8 | 9.7 | 9.3 |
| Blackpool | 10.6 | 10.3 | 10.0 | 7.0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 65.2 | 68.3 | 65.7 | 49.3 |
| Nottingham | 25.9 | 27.9 | 27.5 | 22.5 |
| Shropshire | 21.7 | 21.4 | 21.4 | 16.1 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 13.4 | 13.8 | 14.7 | 10.3 |
| Cornwall | 55.4 | 55.1 | 55.8 | 46.8 |
| Cumbria | 30.8 | 29.2 | 32.2 | 24.5 |

[1] Regional and local authority breakdowns are based on learner home postcode prior to enrolment.

*Source:*
LSC ILR

## Adult Education: Oxfordshire

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adult learner accounts have been taken up in Oxfordshire since September. [167173]

**Mr. Lammy:** As of 22 November 2007 a total of 791 adult learner accounts had been opened by learners in the trial LSC areas of the South East and East Midlands: 38 of these were opened by individuals in Oxfordshire.

As outlined in "World Class Skills: Implementing the Leitch Review of Skills in England" (July 07), the evaluation of these trials will inform the development of Skills Accounts to give adult learners greater choice, purchasing power and control over their learning, and to drive forward the implementation of demand-led funding within further education.

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many officials from his Department, broken down by grade, attended the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism on 15 November; and if he will make a statement. [167394]

**Bill Rammell:** I understand that you have already received a reply from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government on this question as the lead on cohesion matters. That reply sets out that the cross-government working group did not meet on the 15, but the meeting that took place was between the Parliamentary Under Secretary, his officials and representatives from key Jewish organizations. My officials did not participate in that meeting.

I can assure you that my Department deplores any acts of racial or religious intolerance in higher education. We are committed to tackling any form of anti-Semitism and racial intolerance in general. Although higher education institutions have primary responsibility for ensuring equal opportunities and for abiding by legislation in this area, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is committed to encouraging the higher education sector to ensure that discrimination has no place in any of its policies or practices.

### Apprentices: Advisory Services

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills who will be responsible for providing information on apprenticeships for those aged over 25 years to *(a)* employers and *(b)* job seekers. [167162]

**Mr. Lammy:** Free impartial advice is available for employers, employees and job seekers through the "learndirect" and "next step" services, operated by the Learning and Skills Council. In addition, "Train to Gain" skills brokers provide specialised support to business on their skill needs, including apprenticeships.

In "World Class Skills" (Cmnd 7181), published in July, we announced the creation of a new universal adult careers service. The unified service will work closely with Job Centre Plus. It will provide free access to every adult in England to a wide range of information, including apprenticeships, and will be fully operational from 2010-11.

### Apprentices: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many new apprenticeships were created in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last three years. [168307]

**Mr. Lammy:** Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) individualised Learner Record (ILR). The table shows the cumulative number of apprenticeship starts from August-July in each year in Lancashire local LSC area. (These figures are not readily available at parliamentary constituency level).

*Thousand*

| | *Advanced apprenticeships* | *Apprenticeships* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004/05 | 1.6 | 4.1 |
| 2005/06 | 1.4 | 3.2 |
| 2006/07 | 1.9 | 3.9 |

### Apprentices: Oxfordshire

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many modern apprenticeships he expects to be started in the *(a)* Oxford and *(b)* Banbury travel to work area in each of the next three years; [167165]

(2) how many of the new 281,000 apprenticeships for 16 to 18-year-olds he expects to be made available in Oxfordshire. [167176]

**Mr. Lammy:** Our apprenticeship data models do not have the level of detail for local areas so we are unable to answer these questions.

### Assessments: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average net marginal cost was of a student taking *(a)* a GCSE in English literature, *(b)* a GCSE in English language, *(c)* a GCSE in mathematics, *(d)* an A-level in English literature, *(e)* an A-level in English language and *(f)* an A-level in mathematics at a further education college in the latest period for which figures are available. [166892]

**Bill Rammell:** We do not hold information on the net marginal cost of providing courses to learners in further education colleges. Colleges may identify this cost in their internal financial records but there is no requirement on them to share it with the Department or with the Learning and Skills Council.

The Learning and Skills Council funds all colleges on the basis of a national funding formula which includes base funding rates for all qualifications. The base funding rates the Learning and Skills Council will offer to further education colleges in respect of each learner undertaking the courses identified in this question in 2007-08 are:

£

| | *Funding rate for each 16-18 year old learner in 2007-08* | *Funding rate for each 19+ year old learner in 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| GCSE English Literature/Language/ Mathematics | 622 | [1]610 |
| A level English Literature/Language/ Mathematics | 862 | [1]845 |

[1]Colleges receive this full funding rate for 19+ year old learners eligible for full fee remission in 2007-08. Where 19+ year old learners are not eligible for full fee remission the rate offered by the Learning and Skills Council is reduced and the college will ask the learner to contribute a proportion of the course fee.

### Burgess Report

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent in implementing recommendations of the Burgess report since its publication. [165530]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department has not spent any money on implementing Burgess recommendations.

The Burgess Group's final report on proposals for national credit arrangements was published in December 2006 and the Group's final report on measuring and recording student achievement was published in October 2007. The Burgess Group was an HE sector group and the recommendations are for implementation by the HE sector. Work on the credit recommendations is being taken forward by a sector-led Credit Issues Development Group. Universities UK and Guild HE are currently considering their response to the report on measuring and recording student achievement.

On recording achievement, I welcome the proposal to develop a Higher Education Achievement Report, to help present a more complete picture of a graduate's skills and knowledge than is captured solely in the overall degree classification. However, I believe progress can best be made by building on the current system, and certainly not by replacing degree classifications. The HE sector will need to consider carefully the best way to provide the additional information, while maintaining stability in the system.

### Chemistry: Graduates

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people graduated with chemistry degrees in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2007. [166748]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available information is shown in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

The latest figures published by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that the number of students who have been accepted for entry to full-time undergraduate courses in chemistry in autumn 2007 is up by nearly 9 per cent. compared to 2006, and is up by nearly 13 per cent. compared to 2005.

*First degrees obtained in chemistry, English higher education institutions, academic year 2004/05 to 2005/06*

| *Academic year* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004/05 | 2,260 |
| 2005/06 | 2,110 |

*Note:*
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166651]

**Mr. Lammy:** For the period 1 January to 30 June 2007 the percentage of imported beef, sheep meat, pork and dairy products used within DIUS headquarters buildings was 84 per cent. of beef, 93 per cent. of lamb, 76 per cent. of pork and 7 per cent. of dairy products.

### Departmental Manpower

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many civil servants in his Department and its predecessors *(a)* transferred to other Government Departments and *(b)* left the Civil Service in each of the last five years. [162728]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department was formed in the Machinery of Government changes announced on 28 June 2007. Its formation involved the headcount transfer of 536 staff from the former Department for Education and Skills and 243 from the Department of Trade and Industry (total 779 staff). There have been no significant numbers of staff movements or departures since that date. The latest staffing figure for my Department is a headcount total of 761 staff or full-time equivalent of 727.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest; and if he will make a statement. [164160]

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [164511]

**Mr. Lammy:** Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Copies of the Model Contract are available in the House Libraries.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the likely cost of student policy juries in 2007-08. [164850]

**Bill Rammell:** In October, John Denham announced an ambitious listening programme which will put the voices of England's 2.3 million university students at the heart of Government. This new approach will ensure students are able to make their views and ideas heard through a range of mechanisms with Ministers responding to specific issues raised.

The student juries being run between now and Christmas are one element of the student listening programme. Costs for the five student juries, to be held in November and December 2007, have been budgeted at £20,000 in total (excluding VAT). We will also pay participants' reasonable expenses.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies. [165241]

**Mr. Lammy:** DIUS currently employs a team of 7.2 FTE staff who are responsible for marketing and brand management. The team is responsible for marketing campaigns through the paid-for media—TV, press, radio—such as the current Student Finance Campaign—as well as delivery of DIUS information through key channels publications and the corporate website. The team ensures that appropriate branding is visible on all DIUS communications.

*National Weights and Measures Laboratory*

National Weights and Measures Laboratory employs 0.4 FTE staff responsible for brand management and marketing.

*Intellectual Property Office*

The only marketing undertaken in the UK-IPO is in relation to commercial services where 1.6 staff are currently engaged. Brand management is a very small part of the activity—less than 0.2 FTE.

For a limited time, one person from IPO was recently seconded to support the branding of a newly formed DIUS. This secondment will cease at the end of this year.

### Departmental Questions

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of questions tabled for answer on a named day to his Department received a substantive answer on the day due in the last year for which figures are available. [162614]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department's PQ tracking system is currently unable to break down the data requested and to do so would incur disproportionate cost. This Department aims to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day, and endeavours to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled. Unfortunately, this is not always possible, but this Department makes every effort to achieve these time scales.

### Educational Institutions: Registration

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many colleges and other educational establishments were *(a)* investigated and *(b)* subsequently removed from the Government Register of Educational Providers in relation to immigration-related considerations in the latest period for which figures are available. [163788]

**Bill Rammell:** The Register of Education and Training Providers was established on 1 January 2005. Since that date, all colleges which want to recruit international students need to appear on the Register. The Home Office will not grant anyone leave to enter or remain in the UK unless he or she is studying at a provider on the Register. The operation of the Register therefore directly helps the Home Office tackle immigration abuse in the education sector.

Since 1 January 2005, 256 colleges on the Register of Education and Training Providers have been investigated by the Borders and Immigration Agency. Of these, 114 have been found to be in breach of the Immigration Rules, and therefore removed from the Register.

### General Elections

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [166894]

**Mr. Lammy:** Officials keep under review, and update, the stock of corporate briefing. No additional briefing was prepared in respect of any prospect of a general election in the autumn. We have not been able to identify any costs incurred in relation to any preparations and do not believe that any were incurred.

### Graduates: Debt

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Reading, East of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1756W, on graduates: debt, (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of course choice on the average amount of time needed by *(a)* male and *(b)* female students in higher education to repay debts incurred during study; [166899]

(2) what assumptions about *(a)* the gender pay gap, *(b)* fertility, *(c)* nuptuality, *(d)* real earnings growth and *(e)* graduate income premium he made in estimating the average amount of time needed by graduates to repay debts incurred during study by (i) men and (ii) women. [166900]

**Bill Rammell:** We estimate that a male student who entered higher education in 2006/07 will take an average of 11 years to repay their student loan. We estimate that this will be 16 years for a female. These periods are counted from the statutory repayment due date, which is the April following the year of graduation.

The calculations are based on assumptions about graduate lifetime earnings, derived from the British Household Panel Survey and the Labour Force Survey. The calculations therefore take account of earnings growth due to career progression, gender, age and periods spent unemployed or inactive for other reasons such as having children. Real earnings growth for the graduate population as a whole is assumed to be 1.95pp above inflation.

Separate analysis of the benefits of higher education estimates that over the working life, the average net graduate earnings premium is comfortably over £100,000 in today's valuation, compared to what a similar individual would have earned if they just had A- levels.

### Higher Education: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the purpose is of the Intercalating Year Abroad fee; what method is used for calculating the Intercalating Year Abroad fee; and if he will make a statement. [167057]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* English higher education institutions are permitted, under the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 No, 176) to charge a tuition fee for a student studying abroad for a year as part of their degree course, of up to half the maximum fee for other home undergraduates. The amount actually charged is a matter for the institution. Students who spend a full academic year abroad on the European Commission's Erasmus scheme have their tuition fees waived for that year. This information applies to England only.

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance his Department provides to universities on the nature, level and extent of services to be provided to students as consideration for the Intercalating Year Abroad fees levied. [167058]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* Higher education institutions are autonomous and it is up to them to determine what services they offer to students during periods spent abroad as part of their course. These will vary according to the course the student is undertaking, and whether or not the student is on a work placement or is attending another university. Higher education institutions participating in the European Commission's Erasmus scheme must have the Erasmus university charter, a document outlining an institution's responsibilities under Erasmus. The British Council, who manage Erasmus in the UK, issue an operational handbook outlining the rules higher education institutions need to abide by.

### Higher Education: Romford

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what projections his Department has made of the numbers of students entering higher education in Romford over the next five years. [168425]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government have a target to increase participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18-30 with growth of at least a percentage point every two years to the academic year 2010-11. The Government do not make projections about the number of students entering higher education from specific areas.

### Higher Education: Student Numbers

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the Government expect to meet their 50 per cent. participation rate target in university education for young people aged 18 to 30 years. [161952]

**Bill Rammell:** Our long-term vision is that the UK should be a world leader on skills, in the upper quartile of OECD rankings by 2020, meeting the recommendations of the Leitch review. Consistent with that vision, we have set a long-term primary target to increase the proportion of the workforce with higher level skills from under 30 per cent. now to over 40 per cent. by 2020 and as a contribution towards that goal, a supporting target to increase participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18-30 with growth of at least a percentage point every two years to the academic year 2010-11. The precise date on which we reach these targets will depend on the outcome of future spending reviews and on continuing to increase demand for higher education among people of all ages and backgrounds who would benefit from entering higher education. Our policies will therefore continue to increase and widen participation.

### Innovation

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he plans to set up a central innovation unit in his Department. [166269]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department already has an Innovation Directorate led by Dr. David Evans, Director of Innovation (who the Secretary of State has asked to lead the work in preparing a science and innovation strategy for the Department.)

### Older Workers

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the types of learning required to help older people remain economically active; and if he will make a statement. [167764]

**Mr. Lammy:** Older people are a hugely valued part of our society, contributing more and more in later life. Almost 8 million people over 50 work and age legislation means that age need no longer be a barrier to working, training or promotion. Our economic success is increasingly dependent on our older work force being as skilled and as productive as younger workers, but too many older workers do not have the basic literacy, numeracy and work place skills they need to succeed, and too few are engaging in education and training to change that.

Our strategy for World Class Skills sets bold targets and our reforms include supporting individuals, including older workers, into sustainable employment and progression in work and in skills. We are committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all learners. Our targets cover workers and learners of all ages and our reforms balance skills and economic prosperity with fairness and inclusion. We will give greater ownership and choice to individuals over their training through skills accounts backed up by a new universal adult careers service that will provide free skills health checks for people of any age at key stages in working life.

We are also working with employers through Train to Gain and the Skills Pledge to meet skill needs and to ensure that all employees including older people have

the basic skills, including literacy and numeracy and Level 2 skills (equivalent to five good GCSEs), needed to sustain and progress in employment. We are increasing funding for Train to Gain from £440 million in 2007/08 to over £900 million in 2010/11. We want to encourage all employers in England to make a Skills Pledge that is a specific promise that every eligible employee will be helped to gain basic skills and a full Level 2 qualification.

### Skilled Workers: Trade Unions

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage more employers to work with trade unions on developing the Skills for Life programme. [167054]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* Employers and trade unions have a key role to play in supporting people to improve their literacy, language and numeracy skills.

The Government make a contribution of £3 million each year to the Union Learning Fund to help develop a focus on Skills for Life within Union Learning Fund projects and to help give Union Learning Representatives (ULRs) the skills to support literacy, language and numeracy learners.

Our efforts to improve skills in the work force will be much more effective if they are delivered with the joint support of employers, learners and those, like trade unions, who can support learning. Through the Skills Pledge, we are encouraging employers to commit to addressing the skills needs of their employees and, in particular, people with poor basic skills and without a full Level 2 qualification.

We have a number of initiatives in place to encourage employers to address Skills for Life needs and to sign the Skills Pledge. In each case, we have encouraged partners to work with the TUC/ Unionlearn to maximise the effectiveness of addressing skills needs.

We have been working with Business in the Community (BITC) to engage large, high-profile employers since 2003. BITC have recruited over 30 senior business leaders as Employer Champions for Skills for Life and have worked with over 150 major companies including, DHL, SERCO and VT Shipbuilding.

Since 2004, BITC have run an annual Skills for Life Award recognising best practice in delivering Skills for Life programmes. Each of the award winners, and many of the runner-up entrants, has delivered programmes in its organisation in partnership with relevant trade unions.

We are working with the Skills for Business network through Asset Skills as the lead Sector Skills Council on Skills for Life. Sector Skills Councils have a role in raising awareness of literacy, language and numeracy skills among the employers they represent, in supporting them in addressing needs within their footprint and in ensuring that qualifications reflect the literacy, language and numeracy requirements of their sectors. Asset Skills has recently signed a joint agreement with Unionlearn to support joint activity on Skills for Life.

Working with the Cabinet Office and Government Skills SSC, we want to raise basic skills levels across central Government and to influence the public sector more widely. Cabinet Office consults with the relevant unions on the approach to staff development across central Government and there are a number of examples where PCS has worked closely with central Government Departments on Skills for Life—for example with the Department for Work and Pensions and Inland Revenue.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on employers of their working with trades unions to improve the skills of their work forces. [167056]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* In recent years, with the help of the Union Learning Fund (ULF), trade unions and their Union Learning Representatives have been really successful in working with employers to raise skill levels in the workplace. There are now over 18,000 trained Union Learning reps who have helped over 400,000 workers back into learning since ULF was introduced in 1988. Over 150,000 last year alone, many of whom were Skills for Life learners, those most in need of new skills who employers and training providers find it so difficult to reach.

An evaluation of the Union Learning Fund (2001-05) which surveyed a range of employers involved in ULF, showed that almost two-thirds of those employers who responded had a learning agreement in place as a result of ULF and 75 per cent. reported an increase in Skills for Life learning.

### Students: Public Participation

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether a formal assessment was made of the quality of student representation provided by the National Union of Students before the decision to establish the National Student Forum was taken. [163212]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government are strongly committed to a new style of politics and citizen engagement. We are ambitious to find new ways to engage the British people in the policy-making process through informed debate.

The Forum will not duplicate or attempt to replace the work of student representative bodies, of which the NUS is one, but will provide a new and complementary way for students to engage with policy-makers nationally. Therefore, the quality of existing representative groups is not at issue. We greatly value the representation and advocacy work of the National Union of Students, unlike the last Government who sought to decimate the NUS through the introduction of voluntary membership of student unions, and it is one of our key partners in the creation of the Forum. The Forum is intended to provide students from a wide range of personal and academic backgrounds with direct access to Government and policy-making agencies, giving a greater voice to students at a national level.

### Tuberculosis: Vaccination

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether there is a funding gap for work to research and develop a new tuberculosis vaccine being undertaken in the UK, with reference to the answer of 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1340W on tuberculosis: vaccination. [163357]

**Ian Pearson:** The Medical Research Council (MRC) has recognised the need to increase funding for translational research into new vaccines, including vaccines against tuberculosis, and has made £3.5 million available in 2007-08 for such research.

### Vocational Training: Advisory Services

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills who is responsible for providing information on training places for adults to *(a)* employers and *(b)* jobseekers. [167163]

**Mr. Lammy:** Many employers already train their staff to a high degree and do not require any support in identifying training opportunities. For those employers who are unclear of where to turn we have established the Train to Gain service. Skills brokers support employers to understand their skills needs and then provide a detailed plan of how to meet those needs, including a choice of provider offering training places, often delivered on the employers premises. In addition, many training providers offer advice and support to local businesses on training places.

DWP colleagues advise that currently, Jobcentre Plus customers can access information, advice and guidance on training opportunities from NextStep, LearnDirect and, in some locations, skills coaches funded by the LSC.

### Vocational Training: Finance

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many skills brokers working through the Train to Gain programme received public funding in 2006-07; what their performance targets were; how many and what value of payments were related to their performance; and how their performance was assessed and measured. [166896]

**Mr. Lammy:** There are around 450 Train to Gain skills brokers working in England for the LSC. Skills brokers' performance targets for 2006-07 were 47,770 employer engagements, of which at least 51 per cent. had to be "hard to reach". We define hard-to-reach as employers that are not IiP recognised and have not accessed substantial vocational training leading to a qualification within the last 12 months. The interim data for 2006-07 indicate that there were 52,370 engagements of which 72 per cent. were categorised as "hard to reach".

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much was spent on Train to Gain brokers in 2006-07; and what percentage of the Train to Gain budget for that year this figure represents; [166897]

(2) how much he expects to be spent on Train to Gain brokers in 2007-08; and what percentage of the Train to Gain budget for the year this figure represents. [166895]

**Mr. Lammy:** Train to Gain is a new service that has just completed its first year of full national operation. In that time it has engaged more than 52,000 employers and resulted in more than 240,000 learners commencing training, many for the first time in their adult careers. More than 70 per cent. of the employers engaged by skills brokers are classified as hard to reach (not IiP accredited and no recorded investment at a publicly funded training provider). The total budget for Train to Gain was £288 million of which £25.4 million (8.8 per cent. of the budget) was allocated to skills brokerage. This figure included many one-off set up costs associated with this new mechanism for engaging with employers. The overall budget for Train to Gain has increased to £430 million with expenditure on skills brokers remaining constant at around £24 million (5.8 per cent. of the budget). From April 2009, skills brokerage will be integrated with the information, diagnostic and brokerage services delivered through Business Link.

### Vocational Training: Oxfordshire

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* companies and *(b)* organisations in Oxfordshire have signed the Skills Pledge. [167174]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Skills Pledge is a voluntary public commitment by the leadership of a company or organisation to support all its employees to develop their basic skills including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant valuable qualifications to at least level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs). If companies or organisations want to go beyond this and extend the commitment to help staff gain wider skills and additional qualifications as well that is welcome. The Skills Pledge is open to all employers in England.

As at November 2007, the available information indicated that there were six companies or organisations in Oxfordshire which have signed the Skills Pledge. We do not collect separate information on companies or organisations.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Train to Gain places have been made available in the *(a)* Banbury and *(b)* Oxford travel to work areas. [167175]

**Mr. Lammy:** Train to Gain is a major aspect of the drive to create a demand-led service and does not generate places in the traditional sense. Through Train to Gain, employers can access the advice and support they need to help them identify and then meet the skills their businesses need to succeed. We do not collect information on travel to work areas. In the first year of its operation, there were a total of 853 learners funded through Train to Gain in the wards of Banbury and Oxford. The breakdown was as follows: Banbury 433, East Oxford 302 and West Oxford 118.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Local Policing

12. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to increase transparency and accountability in arrangements for local policing. [167492]

**Mr. McNulty:** We are strongly committed to increasing transparency and accountability in arrangements for local policing, from giving local communities a better opportunity to shape local policing priorities and the response to those priorities through the roll-out of neighbourhood policing, to our plans to provide every community with monthly crime information for their local area.

We want to build further on this progress, and that is why we asked Sir Ronnie Flanagan to look specifically at how local accountability arrangements could be strengthened as part of his Independent Review of Policing, the final report of which we look forward to in the new year.

### Migration

13. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the co-ordination of migration policy between Government Departments. [167493]

**Mr. Byrne:** Home Office Ministers discuss migration policy with ministerial colleagues on a regular basis through the Cabinet Committee structure, in particular the Ministerial Committee for Domestic Affairs Sub-Committee on Migration.

Several Government Departments are represented on the Migration Advisory Committee and the Migration Impact Forum.

We also work closely with individual Departments on a range of more specific issues relating to migration policy. For example, in June 2007 we published our joint Home Office/Foreign Office International Strategy on migration.

### Security Staff

14. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made identifying security staff working illegally. [167494]

**Mr. Coaker:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 13 November on Security Industry Authority licensing checks and the issue of entitlement to work in the UK. The Home Secretary instigated a retrospective check of all non-EEA licences and will make a further statement when that is complete.

### Identity Cards

15. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the introduction of identity cards on the incidence of crimes related to identity fraud. [167495]

**Meg Hillier:** Our plans for a National Identity Scheme will provide people with a secure means of protecting their identity and help citizens to prove their identities easily, quickly, simply and with vastly improved security. It is considered that this will have a significant impact upon identity fraud.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when passports will become designated documents under section 4 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. [166098]

**Jacqui Smith:** No decision has been taken yet on the timetable for the designation of passports and this will require approval by Parliament of an order under section 4 of the Identity Cards Act 2006.

### Cannabis

16. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research she has commissioned on trends in the use of cannabis. [167496]

**Mr. Coaker:** The British Crime Survey provides consistent trend data on the use of cannabis. Since the launch of the Government's Drug Strategy in 1998 the survey has shown a reduction in the level of cannabis use.

### Terrorist Suspects: Detention

17. **Martin Salter:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for the increases in periods of detention before charge for terrorist suspects introduced in each of the last 10 years. [167497]

**Mr. McNulty:** The increases in the maximum period of pre-charge detention for terrorist suspects in the last 10 years have been agreed by Parliament on the basis that they were needed for operational reasons.

20. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on proposals to increase the maximum period of detention, of terrorist suspects without charge beyond 28 days. [167500]

**Mr. McNulty:** We have undertaken an extensive consultation on extending the maximum period of pre-charge detention for terrorist suspects and have received representations from a range of stakeholders, including the police, civil liberty groups, the judiciary and wider community groups.

### Border Security

18. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential contribution of the e-borders scheme to the security of the UK's borders. [167498]

**Mr. Byrne:** The e-borders programme is a key component of our wider strategy to strengthen and modernise our border control and will mean that we will be able to count people in and out of the country.

It sits as part of our programme to introduce biometric visas, and a visa waiver programme to provide the UK with a new and robust offshore border control designed to complement the UK counter-terrorism strategy.

In developing e-borders, we have undertaken a thorough assessment of the requirements of the core agencies, including the Border and Immigration Agency, UKvisas, HM Revenue and Customs, the police service and the security and intelligence agencies.

E-borders is already being successfully tested and trialled through an operational prototype. Since November 2004, Project Semaphore has generated nearly 17,000 alerts and over 1,300 arrests.

### Government Advisers

22. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that religious leaders who are advising on Government policy do not have an extremist background. [167502]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Government have made clear that they are fundamentally rebalancing their engagement with Muslim organisations towards those organisations which take a leadership role in rejecting and condemning violent extremism and upholding shared values. That will be the guiding principle in engaging with religious leaders who advise Government.

### Antisocial Behaviour Orders

23. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of antisocial behaviour orders in reducing antisocial behaviour in the last 12 months. [167503]

**Mr. Coaker:** Three independent reports have confirmed that our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is working. Also, we have appointed IPSOS Mori to undertake a qualitative study investigating the circumstances in which different antisocial behaviour interventions are most effective. Antisocial behaviour orders are just one of these. The outcome is to be published in 2008.

### Youth Crime

24. **Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of levels of youth crime. [167504]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not available from the Home Office recorded crime statistics. This data series solely covers offences recorded by the police and no details of the alleged offenders are collected. The Home Office's Offending Crime and Justice Survey 2006 gives figures for young people's self-reported offending. According to this research, 24 per cent. of 10 to 17-year-olds committed an offence in the 12 months prior to the survey.

### Immigration

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her latest estimate is of the number of people held in detention under immigration law. [167501]

**Mr. Byrne:** As at 29 September 2007, 2,325 persons were recorded as being in detention in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce alcohol-related antisocial behaviour in Chelmsford. [167064]

**Mr. Coaker:** We are strongly committed to tackling, not tolerating, antisocial behaviour. That is why local crime and disorder reduction partnerships were introduced under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. These enable the police, local authorities and other agencies representing the local community to work together to identify the crime and disorder problems in their area and take action to tackle them.

Specifically in Chelmsford, a Section 30 Dispersal Order was introduced in Chelmsford Town Centre on 15 November; the police carry out high visibility patrols; the licensing laws are enforced; a Pub Link Scheme is in operation; educational programmes are in place for young people and adults, and Chelmsford also has a local Drug and Alcohol Strategy which is being reviewed for 2008.

### Antisocial Behaviour: Criminal Proceedings

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to provide support to victims and witnesses of antisocial behaviour before, during and after relevant court proceedings. [162985]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office is responsible for the policy on antisocial behaviour. The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 introduced special measures for witnesses in proceedings for antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs). These measures were introduced to address concerns about the protection of vulnerable and intimidated witnesses. The measures include screening witnesses from the defendants, giving evidence through video link or in private, and the use of video recorded evidence. This makes it easier for witnesses to give evidence in the Crown and magistrates court during an ASBO hearing. Special dedicated antisocial behaviour response courts have been established in magistrates courts sitting in their civil capacity to ensure that witness issues are addressed. Local agencies have also developed efficient case management systems which includes working in partnership with key agencies to provide support to victims after court proceedings. In addition the Home Office has issued a good practice guide to practitioners on how best to support victims and witnesses of antisocial behaviour through the whole length of the witness pathway. A range of detailed guidance is set out on our website at:

http://www.respect.gov.uk/members/article.aspx?id=8342

### Antisocial Behaviour: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to reduce levels of antisocial behaviour in the West Midlands since 1997. [162984]

**Mr. Conker:** We are strongly committed to tackling, not tolerating, antisocial behaviour. That is why local crime and disorder reduction partnerships were introduced under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. These enable the police, local authorities and other agencies representing the local community to work together to identify the crime and disorder problems in their area and take action to tackle them.

Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) were introduced in 1999 and the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 created a range of additional tools for tackling antisocial behaviour and we are working hard across Government and with agencies on the ground to ensure that the measures that are already in place are being used as effectively as possible. Presently, the Home Office is reviewing and updating the current guidance for the tools and powers available to practitioners.

Specifically in the West Midlands; Coventry has established a multi-agency tasking process to ensure police, housing and local authority resources, including the citywide warden service are deployed in the right areas. Wolverhampton has established a dedicated phone line to allow members of the public to tackle antisocial behaviour and in Birmingham the local authority has implemented a Family Intervention Project, run by Shelter, and has appointed a parenting co-ordinator to deliver evidence based parenting programmes across the city. The Local Government User Satisfaction Survey (LGUSS) shows that the vast majority of local authorities in the West Midlands have seen a significant reduction in the levels of perception of antisocial behaviour in 2006-07 compared with 2003-04. The data from this survey can be found on the Respect website at:

www.respect.gov.uk

## Anti-Terrorism Control Orders

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance individuals subject to control orders receive with their living costs. [162208]

**Mr. McNulty:** Individuals subject to control orders are not routinely prevented from taking employment or from receiving state benefits, including where appropriate, job seekers allowance, housing benefit and asylum support. However, if the terms of a control order prevent an individual gaining employment or render him ineligible for other benefits, the Home Office will make necessary subsistence payments.

If an individual subject to a control order is required to move from their current residence, the Home Office may provide suitable alternative accommodation and pay council tax and utility costs.

In some circumstances, the Home Office may pay the line rental for a telephone and/or provide pre-paid telephone cards. This may be appropriate where a controlled person is prohibited by the terms of the control order from using telephones outside his residence and/or using mobile telephones.

All control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and in each case must be necessary and proportionate for purposes connected with preventing or restricting involvement by that individual in terrorism-related activity.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any of the individuals who have been subjected to control orders have been treated for self-inflicted injuries. [162210]

**Mr. McNulty:** Since control orders came into force in 2005, we are aware of two individuals who have been treated for self-inflicted injuries while on a control order. The Home Office, police and (as appropriate) the Prison Service take the mental and physical health of all individuals subject to a control order seriously. This includes monitoring the impact of the control order on the individual's (and his family's) physical and mental health; seeking representations from the individual on the impact of the control order on him and his family; and regularly reviewing the control order and its constituent obligations in the light of the order's impact on the individual's personal circumstances.

## Arrests

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests on average were made by each police officer in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each year since 1997. [167098]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on arrest rates is not collected centrally and is a matter for each police force.

## British Nationality: Northern Ireland

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizenship ceremonies have taken place in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months; and how many people have become British subjects at these ceremonies, broken down by country of birth. [166207]

**Mr. Byrne:** A total of 31 citizenship ceremonies were held in Northern Ireland during the last 12 months. 520 people became British citizens at these ceremonies. A full breakdown by month and nationality is as follows.

A table giving the full breakdown of ceremonies by month and nationality has been deposited in the House of Commons Library.

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

*Ceremony attended in Northern Ireland*

| | *2006* | | *2007* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *November* | *December* | *January* | *February* | *March* | *April* |
| Overall Total Number of Adults Attending Ceremonies | 20 | 30 | 25 | 40 | 30 | 40 |

*Ceremony attended in Northern Ireland*

| | 2006 | | 2007 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *November* | *December* | *January* | *February* | *March* | *April* |
| Philippines | [1]— | 10 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 20 |
| India | — | [1]— | [1]— | 5 | [1]— | 5 |
| China (Peoples Republic of China) | — | [1]— | [1]— | 5 | [1]— | 5 |
| South Africa | 5 | 5 | — | 5 | — | [1]— |
| British National (Overseas) | — | — | [1]— | — | [1]— | [1]— |
| Turkey | — | — | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Zimbabwe | — | — | [1]— | [1]— | — | — |
| Federal Republic of Yugoslavia | [1]— | 5 | [1]— | — | [1]— | — |
| United States of America | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | — | 5 | — |
| Pakistan | [1]— | — | — | [1]— | [1]— | — |
| Other Nationalities | 10 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 10 | 10 |

| | 2007 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *May* | *June* | *July* | *August* | *September* | *October* |
| Overall Total Number of Adults Attending Ceremonies | 40 | 65 | 40 | 60 | 55 | 75 |
| Philippines | 20 | 30 | 25 | 30 | 15 | 35 |
| India | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| China (Peoples Republic of China) | [1]— | 5 | [1]— | 5 | 10 | 10 |
| South Africa | [1]— | [1]— | 5 | 10 | — | 5 |
| British National (Overseas) | 5 | [1]— | — | [1]— | 5 | 10 |
| Turkey | — | [1]— | — | — | 5 | — |
| Zimbabwe | [1]— | — | 5 | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— |
| Federal Republic of Yugoslavia | [1]— | [1]— | — | — | — | — |
| United States of America | [1]— | — | [1]— | — | — | — |
| Pakistan | — | — | [1]— | [1]— | [1]— | — |
| Other Nationalities | 5 | 20 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 15 |

[1] Negligible i.e. 2 or less.
*Notes:*
1. Relates to adults only.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
Local Management Information.

## Children: Protection

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many specialist child protection officers have been employed in each police force area in each of the last five years. [165670]

**Mr. McNulty:** Figures collected by the Home Office, on police officer and staff numbers by function, do not separately identify child protection officers.

## Commissioner of the Police for the Metropolis

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings she had with the Commissioner of the Police for the Metropolis in each week since June 2007; what the *(a)* location and *(b)* duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; what the cost was of each meeting, broken down by (i) administrative and (ii) other costs; and if she will make a statement. [167397]

**Mr. McNulty:** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and I have regular meetings with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to discuss official business.

## Community Relations

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training is being provided to neighbourhood police teams on dealing with radicalisation in their local communities; where such courses are delivered; and what the duration of such courses is. [165839]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer to the reply I gave on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 504-05W to my hon. Friend, the Member for Rotherham (Mr. MacShane).

In addition to the advice and training already available to Neighbourhood Policing Teams, some also receive bespoke 'Intelligence and Community Engagement' training, which examines the issues relating to neighbourhood policing teams' engagement with local communities. This training, which lasts a day and is delivered in force, is being piloted in four police forces and consideration is now being given to its wider dissemination. Police personnel are also able to learn about how to deal with radicalisation through a specific internet website.

The National Policing Improvement Agency is currently completing a major Training Needs Analysis for Counter-Terrorism which includes an analysis of training needs in the areas of radicalisation and extremism. The new learning programme will be available in 2008.

## Community Support Officers: Manpower

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there were in each of the last four years in each police force area. [165674]

**Mr. McNulty:** Figures for the four years from 31 March 2004 to 31 March 2007, the most recent published period, are given in the following table.

*Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force: 31 March 2004 to 31 March 2007*

| Police force | 31 March 2004 | 31 March 2005[3] | 31 March 2006[3] | 31 March 2007[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 45 | 139 | 130 | 302 |
| Bedfordshire | 12 | 40 | 41 | 83 |
| Cambridgeshire | 57 | 86 | 101 | 184 |
| Cheshire | 50 | 52 | 75 | 176 |
| Cleveland | 77 | 75 | 100 | 114 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 17 | 17 | 85 |
| Derbyshire | 0 | 43 | 42 | 181 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 51 | 74 | 74 | 317 |
| Dorset | 8 | 47 | 61 | 122 |
| Durham | 28 | 69 | 67 | 142 |
| Essex | 86 | 179 | 192 | 388 |
| Gloucestershire | 54 | 72 | 72 | 169 |
| Greater Manchester | 173 | 269 | 251 | 763 |
| Hampshire | 0 | 26 | 30 | 296 |
| Hertfordshire | 46 | 98 | 139 | 223 |
| Humberside | 0 | 20 | 20 | 194 |
| Kent | 59 | 105 | 97 | 203 |
| Lancashire | 110 | 161 | 184 | 374 |
| Leicestershire | 41 | 103 | 136 | 216 |
| Lincolnshire | 38 | 75 | 78 | 147 |
| London, City of | 0 | 14 | 11 | 36 |
| Merseyside | 72 | 170 | 196 | 332 |
| Metropolitan Police | 1,463 | 2,147 | 2,315 | 3,694 |
| Norfolk | 33 | 68 | 65 | 176 |
| Northamptonshire | 10 | 37 | 40 | 129 |
| Northumbria | 51 | 126 | 129 | 248 |
| North Yorkshire | 52 | 75 | 71 | 147 |
| Nottinghamshire | 56 | 108 | 112 | 217 |
| South Yorkshire | 59 | 124 | 121 | 302 |
| Staffordshire | 7 | 63 | 70 | 203 |
| Suffolk | 15 | 34 | 30 | 123 |
| Surrey | 56 | 115 | 126 | 203 |
| Sussex | 83 | 228 | 257 | 352 |
| Thames Valley | 7 | 98 | 130 | 213 |
| Warwickshire | 25 | 56 | 64 | 127 |
| West Mercia | 57 | 81 | 85 | 217 |
| West Midlands | 39 | 219 | 252 | 644 |
| West Yorkshire | 265 | 394 | 462 | 690 |
| Wiltshire | 23 | 41 | 57 | 121 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 5 | 25 | 26 | 77 |
| Gwent | 45 | 77 | 76 | 105 |
| North Wales | 0 | 59 | 58 | 145 |
| South Wales | 59 | 107 | 111 | 314 |
| Total England and Wales | 3,418 | 6,214 | 6,769 | 13,497 |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Strength figures as at 31 March 2005 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

## Crime

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigations resulted in the police taking no further action in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [167100]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects information on the number of offences recorded and detected by the police but no information is held on the actual number of investigations undertaken by the police.

## Departmental Buildings

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent by her Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164370]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Opinion Polls

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what opinion polls the Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164959]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* Since 27 June 2007 the Department has conducted one wave of public opinion polling across a broad range of Home Office issues, of during August 2007. This polling was carried out by Ipsos MORI, at a cost of £13,875 (ex VAT).

The polling was used to give the Department a better understanding of public priorities, concerns and satisfaction levels. This will help direct the Department's strategy and future policy initiatives.

*(b)* The Home Office headquarters, Border and Immigration Agency and Identity and Passport Service have not conducted any opinion polls of staff since 27 June 2007. The Criminal Records Bureau employed the research company Ipsos MORI to conduct a staff survey between 10 and 28 September 2007. This is an annual consultation exercise with staff to gain feedback on any issues of concern that senior management can take steps to address and it was undertaken at a cost of £25,000.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [167351]

**Mr. Byrne:** Over the past 12 months £77,069 has been spent on managing corporate identity when Border and Immigration Agency became a shadow executive agency.

### Departmental Wines

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [164287]

**Mr. Byrne:** All public procurement procedures must comply with the EC treaty. The key principles of the treaty, from a public procurement point of view, are the free movement of goods and services, and non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality. This legislation is designed to ensure that all public procurement across the European Union is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory.

This means that the Home Department cannot specify that it will buy goods (eg wine) only from a particular country or locality, as that would discriminate against producers from other EU member states.

However, the Government are committed to increase opportunities for small and local suppliers to tender for contracts, thus increasing competition and securing better value for money. The Home Office does this by advertising contracts on the Home Office eSourcing Portal www.homeoffice.bravosolution.com which reduces bureaucracy in the procurement process.

The facility management contractor for the Department's headquarters building includes a number of English wines on its hospitality menu for selection at departmental functions.

### Drugs: Misuse

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what drugs programmes are administered by her Department; and what the budget for each was for the last five years for which figures are available. [164798]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office is responsible for administering the national sports-based Positive Futures social inclusion Programme, Blueprint drug research programme and the Drug Interventions Programme. The Home Office is also jointly responsible with the Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families for the management of the FRANK drug awareness campaign. The Home Office also contributes to and manages the cross-Government Young People Substance Misuse Partnership Grant.

Total expenditure on these drugs programme was captured within the Home Office departmental report for 2006-07 on our previous strategic objective that fewer people's lives are ruined by drugs and alcohol. The relevant figures are set out as follows, including outturn figures for 2006-07 where an estimate was published previously:

| | | £000 |
|---|---|---|
| | *Resource* | *Capital* |
| *Outturn* | | |
| 2003-04 | 96,351 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 206,904 | 2,174 |
| 2005-06 | 184,468 | 800 |
| 2006-07 | 211,472 | 20,272 |
| *Planned* | | |
| 2007-08 | 192,876 | 1,500 |

*Notes:*
1. 2004-05 includes net in-year budget transfers of about £24,000, which were subsequently processed in line with PES 2005 12.
2. 2006-07 includes £17,459 misallocated capital that is being corrected.
3. 2006-07 and 2007-08 figures both exclude £11,273 resource disbursed as grants under local area agreements and now classified separately on the HM Treasury database.

*Source:*
HM Treasury database

### Entry Clearances: Employment

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of A2 nationals likely to enter the UK for employment purposes annually *(a)* under existing arrangements; and *(b)* following full right of access under EU law. [162669]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency has not made any estimates of the number of A2 nationals likely to enter the UK for employment purposes following full right of access under EU law. Figures on migration since January 2007 are available in the quarterly releases of Romanian and Bulgarian accession statistics which can be found on the BIA website

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/bulgarianandromanianaccession.

I will place in the House Library copies of the most recent quarterly release.

### Harassment: Complaints

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of *(a)* sexual and *(b)* racial harassment were received by the Metropolitan Police in each year since 1997. [167414]

**Mr. McNulty:** This is a matter for the Metropolitan police.

### Human Trafficking

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with the Scottish Executive on Operation Pentameter 2. [167181]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* There have been regular discussions with the Scottish Executive in relation to the conduct of Operation Pentameter 2. The Scottish Executive are represented alongside the Home Office on the police-led multi-agency co-ordination group leading the operation.

### Immigration Controls: Heathrow Airport

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are any guidelines at Heathrow airport to maintain an ethnically balanced team checking passports of outgoing and incoming travellers. [166016]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency recruit and roster staff without regard to race or ethnic background and in accordance with the Home Office Race Equality and Diversity Statement.

### Immigration: EU Countries

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies her Department has conducted into the *(a)* potential effects of the impending transition of Schengen area EU states including Poland, Slovakia and Hungary on border control systems of nations such as Ukraine and *(b)* consequential impact on UK immigration policy. [166692]

**Mr. Byrne:** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The Home Office is considering the implications of the expansion of the Schengen area and any additional immigration response required.

### Influenza

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what *(a)* advice and *(b)* resources would be made available to local authorities in addressing the problems of increased mortality as a consequence of an influenza pandemic; and if she will make a statement; [164973]

(2) if she will make a statement on the development of policy for the handling and management of the deceased as a consequence of increased mortality during any future pandemic influenza outbreak; when she plans to issue revised guidance; and what discussions she has had with devolved authorities on the co-ordination of policy. [164844]

**Mr. McNulty:** On 30 August 2007, the Home Office published Planning for a possible Influenza Pandemic—A framework for planners preparing to manage deaths, for consultation. This draft document provides guidance to local authority planners faced with the task of managing excess fatalities in the event of pandemic influenza. It was produced by the Home Office in consultation with a working group representing all the Departments involved in this task together with the Local Government Association, the Faith Communities Consultative Council and representatives of the funeral industry. Representatives of the devolved Administrations also attend the working group.

After the close of the consultation period on 30 November 2007, we will consider the views of respondents and the need for any revisions to the document. The Departments with responsibility for processes such as medical certification of the cause of death; and burial and cremation certification will issue guidelines to their operational counterparts in light of the consultation. We will ensure that local authorities are informed of any changes and make revisions to the publication during the first quarter of 2008. It is not proposed that additional resources for managing excess deaths will be made available to local authorities during an influenza pandemic.

### Missing People: Finance

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department provided to the charity Missing People in 2006-07; how much has been provided for 2007-08; and what the allocation will be in 2008-09. [167128]

**Mr. McNulty:** In 2006-07, the Home Office provided funding of £600,000 to Missing People with an additional £300,000 one-off payment. In 2007-08, £600,000 has again been provided from the Home Office to the charity. The baseline budget proposed for funds to Missing People from the Home Office in 2008-09 is £600,000, but this allocation is subject to final decision by Ministers.

### National Missing Persons Bureau

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information technology equipment and resources are available to the police National Missing Persons Bureau. [167147]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Police National Missing Persons Bureau (PNMPB) currently use a Metropolitan Police Service system called Merlin to record and search records of missing persons. They also have access to PNC (Police National Computer) to carry out checks on missing/wanted persons and utilise open source facilities such as the internet and electoral roll for various searches. The PNMPB has responsibility for the UKMissingkids.com website and, therefore, has the requisite software to host this site.

In April 2008, the PNMPB will transfer to the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). From this time, accessibility to technology and resources will be significantly enhanced. The NPIA is implementing Hermes as the database for the PNMPB. Hermes is a purpose-built database developed and implemented in to the Missing People charity through the Invest to Save Initiative in 2004-05. The shared technology between the bureau and the charity will facilitate effective transfer of data between the two organisations and collaborative efforts on research and analysis projects.

The PNMPB, under the NPIA, will also have access to, and be able to search, the PNC. In addition, the bureau will be able to triangulate reports of missing persons with serious offences and the activities of sexual and dangerous offenders by having direct access to ViSOR (Violent and Sex Offender Register), INI (IMPACT Nominal Index) and SCAS (Serious Crime

Analysis Section) data. They will also be able to access the child homicide database CATCHEM (Central Analytical Team Collating Homicide Expertise and Management), the National Injuries Database, and liaise with the National DNA Database custodian—the NPIA.

### National Missing Persons Bureau: Manpower

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff work for the police National Missing Persons Bureau; and at what grade. [167129]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Police National Missing Persons Bureau is currently staffed by Metropolitan Police Service employees as follows:

1 x band D

2 x full-time band E, plus 1 x part-time (3 days per week) band E

1 x band E currently on maternity leave and being covered by agency staff.

The bureau is overseen by a band C member of staff who is able to commit one fifth of his working hours to this role due to his other responsibilities.

In April 2008, the PNMPB will transfer to the National Policing Improvement Agency. From this time, the staffing structure will become:

1 x Bureau Manager, grade 3a

1 x Police Liaison Officer, seconded police sergeant, or civilian grade 2b

1 x Strategic Analyst, grade 2b

1 x Tactical Analyst, grade 2b

6 x Intelligence Officers, grade 1b

The bureau will be headed up by a grade 3b member of staff who also heads the Serious Crime Analysis Section.

### National Security

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the review by Lord West on the protection of strategic infrastructure assessed potential vulnerabilities of *(a)* civil nuclear installations, *(b)* military nuclear sites and *(c)* the national electricity grid. [166326]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 44-45 WS.

The review addressed the programme of work to protect the electricity sector and other parts of the critical national infrastructure. Lord West also considered the protective security framework for civil nuclear power stations, responsibility for which falls to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. However, the review did not address protective security for military nuclear sites, responsibility for which falls to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which Government Departments the 160 counter-terrorism advisers she announced in her statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, will be sourced. [167387]

**Mr. McNulty:** Counter-terrorism security advisers are employed by police forces.

### Offenders: Deportation

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 14 November on national security, to which countries the 4,000 foreign prisoners referred to are to be deported. [165835]

**Mr. Byrne:** Nationals of all countries can be considered for deportation. The Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, Lin Homer, wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 20 November 2007 and explained that up to the first week of November, approximately 3,500 foreign national prisoners have been removed or deported in 2007. This already represents a 48 per cent. improvement on the total number of FNPs removed for the entire calendar year of 2006, and over 130 per cent. more than for the calendar years 2004 and 2005. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

### Passports: Forgery

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what stage the document scanning equipment with forgery detection capability tender for *(a)* Heathrow airport, *(b)* other airports and *(c)* Eurotunnel has reached. [165571]

**Mr. Byrne:** All ports and airports were equipped with document readers with forgery detection capability as part of a technical refresh which was completed in March 2007.

### Passports: Fraud

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to manage people who arrive at airports in the UK without the passports with which they checked in at their departure airport. [165572]

**Mr. Byrne:** All arriving passengers are subjected to a Border and Immigration Agency Warnings Index check. Where the passenger does not hold a passport, they are subject to further examination in order satisfactorily to establish their identity and nationality. Additional checks may also be conducted including checks with the police, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, UKVisas and the Identity and Passport Service.

Passengers who arrive without documentation and claim asylum are interviewed, photographed and have their fingerprints taken; their personal details are cross-checked against records.

Where a passenger arrives without a document and the inbound flight details are not known, inquiries are conducted in order to establish the carrier and to identify if there are any grounds to suspect that the passenger's entry has been facilitated by a third party. If such a party is detected then prosecution under section 25 of the Immigration Act 1971 (as amended) may follow.

Foreign nationals who arrive undocumented and are unable to provide a statutory defence for their actions may have committed an offence under section 2 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 and may be prosecuted accordingly.

## Police

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces operate a system of named local police officers. [165663]

**Mr. McNulty:** The full implementation of Neighbourhood Policing is due to be completed by April 2008 when all 43 police forces in England and Wales will have local neighbourhood policing teams covering their entire force area.

Police forces, where such a Neighbourhood Policing team is fully in place, will aim to provide the names of individual neighbourhood policing team members together with their team contact details through written updates to the local community (such as local policing summaries) and individual police force websites. Police forces are also currently looking at other ways of conveying this information to the general public through a range of publicity material.

## Police Custody

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police cells there were in each police force area on 1 November; and how many of these were reserved under Operation Safeguard. [166696]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on the number of cells in each force area is not held centrally. The provision of police cell accommodation is a matter for the chief officer of each individual force.

The number of places provided by police forces for Operation Safeguard use may vary according to operational pressures. The following table gives details of police forces that on 16 November 2007 had places available in police cells as part of Operation Safeguard.

| *Police force* | *Places available* |
|---|---|
| Bedfordshire | 3 |
| Cambridgeshire | 8 |
| Cheshire | 36 |
| Cumbria | 4 |
| Derbyshire | 5 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 6 |
| Dorset | 2 |
| Durham | 8 |
| Essex | 18 |
| Greater Manchester | 17 |
| Gwent | 9 |
| Hertfordshire | 10 |
| Kent | 16 |
| Lancashire | 7 |
| Leicestershire | 18 |
| Lincolnshire | 10 |
| Metropolitan | 54 |
| North Wales | 16 |
| Northamptonshire | 6 |
| Northumbria | 10 |
| South Wales | 13 |
| South Yorkshire | 8 |
| Suffolk | 8 |
| Thames Valley | 11 |
| Warwickshire | 8 |
| West Midlands | 40 |
| West Yorkshire | 26 |

## Police Custody: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police cells and *(b)* custody suites there are in West Chelmsford constituency. [167062]

**Mr. McNulty:** The provision of police custody accommodation is a matter for the chief constable of Essex police and for the police authority.

## Police Custody: Wales

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police cells or custody suites there are in each of the police forces in Wales. [166181]

**Mr. McNulty:** The provision of police custody accommodation is a matter for each chief constable and police authority.

## Police Stations: Opening Hours

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police stations were never closed in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 1997; [166926]

(2) how many police stations were open in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166942]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Home Office does not have reliable data submitted by forces on the total number of police stations open and never closed since 1997.

## Police: Airports

**Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 680W, on police: airports, (1) which non-designated airports have a routine police presence; [168504]

(2) whether information on the size of the routine police presence at *(a)* designated and *(b)* non-designated airports is held centrally. [168505]

**Mr. McNulty:** The uniformed police contribution to airport security in the UK is a local matter for the airport operator and the police force for the area concerned. Whether an airport is designated or not, neither party is required routinely to provide information centrally on the police presence.

### Police: Allowances

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in attendance allowances to members of police authorities in England and Wales in each of the last 10 municipal years; and how much she estimates will be allocated in the 2007-08 municipal year. [165806]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Police: Armed Forces

**Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what schemes are in place to encourage forces personnel to join the police service. [165984]

**Mr. McNulty:** It is for individual forces to decide how to target their recruitment activity.

### Police: Graduates

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many university graduates have been hired by the Metropolitan Police in each year since 1997. [166921]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not held centrally. This is a matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

### Police: Interpreters and Translators

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time interpreters of the (i) Arabic, (ii) Romanian, (iii) Bulgarian, (iv) Lithuanian, (v) Czech and (vi) Polish language were employed by the police in the Greater London area in (A) 1997 and (B) 2006. [166178]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of translators in police stations was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166930]

**Mr. McNulty:** Funding for translation and interpretation services is not separately identified. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the chief officer and the police authority.

### Police: Manpower

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in each police authority area in England in each year since 1997; and what the ratio of police officers to residents was in each area, in each year. [165647]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available data are given in the following table.

*Police officer strength and total officers per 100,000 population[1] (FTE)[2] by police force area as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007[3,4]*

| | *31 March 1997* | | *31 March 1998* | | *31 March 1999* | | *31 March 2000[5]* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force* | *Total police officer strength (FTE)* | *Total police officers per 100,000 population* | *Total police officer strength (FTE)* | *Total police officers per 100,000 population* | *Total police officer strength (FTE)* | *Total police officers per 100,000 population* | *Total police officer strength (FTE)* | *Total police officers per 100,000 population* |
| Avon and Somerset | 2,989 | 204 | 2,976 | 203 | 2,999 | 203 | 2,934 | 197 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,094 | 200 | 1,079 | 197 | 1,041 | 189 | 1,028 | 185 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,302 | 188 | 1,291 | 184 | 1,274 | 179 | 1,237 | 172 |
| Cheshire | 2,046 | 209 | 2,042 | 208 | 2,071 | 211 | 2,011 | 204 |
| Cleveland | 1,459 | 261 | 1,483 | 266 | 1,416 | 255 | 1,404 | 252 |
| Cumbria | 1,144 | 233 | 1,164 | 237 | 1,126 | 229 | 1,084 | 220 |
| Derbyshire | 1,791 | 187 | 1,772 | 184 | 1,759 | 182 | 1,777 | 183 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2,865 | 186 | 2,962 | 192 | 2,887 | 186 | 2,841 | 182 |
| Dorset | 1,284 | 189 | 1,310 | 192 | 1,279 | 186 | 1,306 | 189 |
| Durham | 1,461 | 240 | 1,515 | 249 | 1,568 | 258 | 1,558 | 256 |
| Essex | 2,961 | 197 | 2,928 | 193 | 2,891 | 190 | 2,806 | 183 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,133 | 205 | 1,104 | 198 | 1,104 | 197 | 1,114 | 200 |
| Greater Manchester | 6,922 | 268 | 6,949 | 270 | 6,810 | 265 | 6,795 | 264 |
| Hampshire | 3,452 | 198 | 3,490 | 199 | 3,473 | 197 | 3,419 | 193 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,759 | 205 | 1,740 | 202 | 1,724 | 198 | 1,767 | 201 |
| Humberside | 2,045 | 230 | 2,021 | 228 | 1,974 | 223 | 1,932 | 219 |
| Kent | 3,260 | 210 | 3,251 | 209 | 3,201 | 204 | 3,204 | 204 |
| Lancashire | 3,247 | 228 | 3,257 | 229 | 3,245 | 228 | 3,179 | 223 |
| Leicestershire | 1,949 | 211 | 1,983 | 214 | 1,993 | 215 | 1,993 | 215 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,196 | 196 | 1,191 | 193 | 1,140 | 184 | 1,115 | 179 |
| London, City of[6] | 859 | — | 825 | — | 778 | — | 732 | — |
| Merseyside | 4,230 | 296 | 4,216 | 297 | 4,211 | 298 | 4,085 | 290 |
| Metropolitan Police | 26,677 | 367 | 26,094 | 356 | 26,073 | 352 | 25,485 | 341 |
| Norfolk | 1,432 | 185 | 1,430 | 184 | 1,381 | 176 | 1,381 | 175 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,177 | 196 | 1,169 | 193 | 1,137 | 186 | 1,117 | 181 |
| Northumbria | 3,677 | 256 | 3,769 | 263 | 3,840 | 269 | 3,788 | 266 |

*Police officer strength and total officers per 100,000 population[1] (FTE)[2] by police force area as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007[3,4]*

| | 31 March 1997 | | 31 March 1998 | | 31 March 1999 | | 31 March 2000[5] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force* | *Total police officer strength (FTE)* | *Total police officers per 100,000 population* | *Total police officer strength (FTE)* | *Total police officers per 100,000 population* | *Total police officer strength (FTE)* | *Total police officers per 100,000 population* | *Total police officer strength (FTE)* | *Total police officers per 100,000 population* |
| North Yorkshire | 1,338 | 183 | 1,367 | 186 | 1,337 | 181 | 1,283 | 173 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2,323 | 225 | 2,323 | 225 | 2,225 | 216 | 2,204 | 214 |
| South Yorkshire | 3,159 | 242 | 3,182 | 244 | 3,168 | 243 | 3,163 | 243 |
| Staffordshire | 2,211 | 209 | 2,292 | 217 | 2,238 | 211 | 2,170 | 204 |
| Suffolk | 1,180 | 180 | 1,186 | 179 | 1,190 | 179 | 1,145 | 171 |
| Surrey | 1,620 | 209 | 1,608 | 207 | 1,662 | 212 | 1,785 | 227 |
| Sussex | 3,085 | 211 | 3,038 | 206 | 2,847 | 191 | 2,822 | 188 |
| Thames Valley | 3,695 | 180 | 3,776 | 183 | 3,748 | 180 | 3,740 | 178 |
| Warwickshire | 926 | 186 | 924 | 185 | 908 | 180 | 900 | 178 |
| West Mercia | 2,040 | 183 | 2,010 | 180 | 2,025 | 180 | 1,887 | 166 |
| West Midlands | 7,113 | 270 | 7,156 | 271 | 7,321 | 278 | 7,194 | 274 |
| West Yorkshire | 5,209 | 247 | 5,155 | 244 | 4,982 | 236 | 4,822 | 228 |
| Wiltshire | 1,154 | 195 | 1,156 | 195 | 1,151 | 192 | 1,118 | 185 |

| | 31 March 2001[5] | | 31 March 2002[5] | | 31 March 2003[4] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force* | *Total police officer strength (FTE)* | *Total police officers per 100,000 population* | *Total police officer strength (FTE)* | *Total police officers per 100,000 population* | *Total police officer strength (FTE)* | *Total police officers per 100,000 population* |
| Avon and Somerset | 2,960 | 197 | 3,096 | 205 | 3,160 | 213 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,036 | 184 | 1,069 | 189 | 1,119 | 198 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,296 | 179 | 1,362 | 187 | 1,391 | 196 |
| Cheshire | 2,002 | 204 | 2,059 | 209 | 2,137 | 217 |
| Cleveland | 1,407 | 253 | 1,461 | 263 | 1,592 | 294 |
| Cumbria | 1,048 | 213 | 1,100 | 224 | 1,154 | 237 |
| Derbyshire | 1,823 | 187 | 1,848 | 189 | 2,010 | 210 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2,934 | 187 | 3,053 | 192 | 3,215 | 204 |
| Dorset | 1,354 | 196 | 1,381 | 198 | 1,422 | 205 |
| Durham | 1,595 | 263 | 1,614 | 266 | 1,662 | 281 |
| Essex | 2,887 | 178 | 2,946 | 181 | 3,007 | 186 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,173 | 209 | 1,183 | 209 | 1,237 | 219 |
| Greater Manchester | 6,909 | 268 | 7,217 | 279 | 7,391 | 298 |
| Hampshire | 3,435 | 193 | 3,480 | 195 | 3,707 | 208 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,922 | 184 | 1,825 | 174 | 1,977 | 191 |
| Humberside | 1,917 | 217 | 2,058 | 234 | 2,123 | 244 |
| Kent | 3,319 | 209 | 3,355 | 210 | 3,488 | 221 |
| Lancashire | 3,255 | 228 | 3,304 | 231 | 3,380 | 239 |
| Leicestershire | 2,033 | 217 | 2,100 | 224 | 2,147 | 232 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,202 | 191 | 1,198 | 189 | 1,236 | 191 |
| London, City of[6] | 703 | — | 764 | — | 811 | — |
| Merseyside | 4,081 | 291 | 4,125 | 294 | 4,112 | 302 |
| Metropolitan Police | 24,878 | 351 | 26,223 | 366 | 28,231 | 404 |
| Norfolk | 1,420 | 178 | 1,468 | 183 | 1,509 | 189 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,157 | 186 | 1,214 | 194 | 1,222 | 194 |
| Northumbria | 3,857 | 272 | 3,929 | 278 | 4,018 | 290 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,305 | 175 | 1,417 | 188 | 1,452 | 193 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2,212 | 214 | 2,330 | 226 | 2,426 | 239 |
| South Yorkshire | 3,197 | 245 | 3,199 | 246 | 3,194 | 252 |
| Staffordshire | 2,129 | 201 | 2,133 | 201 | 2,224 | 212 |
| Suffolk | 1,133 | 168 | 1,203 | 177 | 1,258 | 188 |
| Surrey | 2,066 | 192 | 1,992 | 184 | 1,933 | 182 |
| Sussex | 2,855 | 188 | 2,893 | 190 | 3,037 | 203 |
| Thames Valley | 3,703 | 175 | 3,762 | 177 | 3,899 | 186 |
| Warwickshire | 926 | 182 | 969 | 190 | 1,000 | 198 |
| West Mercia | 1,951 | 171 | 2,018 | 176 | 2,267 | 196 |
| West Midlands | 7,423 | 283 | 7,681 | 293 | 7,832 | 307 |
| West Yorkshire | 4,815 | 228 | 4,889 | 230 | 5,037 | 242 |
| Wiltshire | 1,120 | 184 | 1,157 | 189 | 1,169 | 190 |

| | 31 March 2004 | | 31 March 2005 | | 31 March 2006 | | 31 March 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total police officer strength (FTE) | Total police officers per 100,000 population | Total police officer strength (FTE) | Total police officers per 100,000 population | Total police officer strength (FTE) | Total police officers per 100,000 population | Total police officer strength (FTE) | Total police officers per 100,000 population |
| Avon and Somerset | 3,417 | 229 | 3,398 | 225 | 3,439 | 226 | 3,430 | 224 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,199 | 210 | 1,232 | 215 | 1,225 | 213 | 1,204 | 207 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1,412 | 197 | 1,418 | 194 | 1,449 | 196 | 1,402 | 187 |
| Cheshire | 2,204 | 224 | 2,207 | 223 | 2,218 | 223 | 2,235 | 225 |
| Cleveland | 1,697 | 314 | 1,689 | 305 | 1,702 | 308 | 1,739 | 315 |
| Cumbria | 1,241 | 254 | 1,260 | 257 | 1,265 | 256 | 1,273 | 255 |
| Derbyshire | 2,084 | 216 | 2,082 | 213 | 2,073 | 212 | 2,049 | 209 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 3,311 | 208 | 3,399 | 212 | 3,540 | 219 | 3,523 | 216 |
| Dorset | 1,453 | 209 | 1,475 | 211 | 1,512 | 216 | 1,526 | 217 |
| Durham | 1,701 | 288 | 1,738 | 293 | 1,716 | 288 | 1,705 | 285 |
| Essex | 3,120 | 192 | 3,230 | 198 | 3,322 | 203 | 3,341 | 203 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,298 | 229 | 1,308 | 230 | 1,303 | 228 | 1,319 | 229 |
| Greater Manchester | 8,111 | 323 | 8,119 | 321 | 8,071 | 318 | 7,992 | 314 |
| Hampshire | 3,780 | 211 | 3,803 | 212 | 3,800 | 211 | 3,887 | 215 |
| Hertfordshire | 2,117 | 204 | 2,145 | 206 | 2,166 | 208 | 2,202 | 210 |
| Humberside | 2,231 | 256 | 2,232 | 255 | 2,232 | 251 | 2,235 | 251 |
| Kent | 3,621 | 228 | 3,630 | 227 | 3,648 | 227 | 3,720 | 229 |
| Lancashire | 3,579 | 252 | 3,585 | 251 | 3,635 | 253 | 3,628 | 252 |
| Leicestershire | 2,300 | 246 | 2,311 | 246 | 2,277 | 241 | 2,255 | 237 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,241 | 189 | 1,234 | 185 | 1,236 | 183 | 1,243 | 183 |
| London, City of[6] | 856 | — | 881 | — | 875 | — | 861 | — |
| Merseyside | 4,129 | 303 | 4,339 | 318 | 4,302 | 315 | 4,441 | 325 |
| Metropolitan Police | 30,035 | 420 | 31,073 | 433 | 30,948 | 417 | 31,128 | 426 |
| Norfolk | 1,524 | 190 | 1,554 | 192 | 1,575 | 193 | 1,577 | 191 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,261 | 198 | 1,289 | 201 | 1,338 | 207 | 1,301 | 200 |
| Northumbria | 4,061 | 294 | 4,088 | 294 | 4,066 | 291 | 3,981 | 283 |
| North Yorkshire | 1,534 | 203 | 1,561 | 206 | 1,653 | 216 | 1,671 | 217 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2,507 | 245 | 2,522 | 245 | 2,512 | 243 | 2,445 | 235 |
| South Yorkshire | 3,307 | 261 | 3,307 | 260 | 3,305 | 259 | 3,289 | 256 |
| Staffordshire | 2,286 | 218 | 2,309 | 220 | 2,302 | 219 | 2,315 | 219 |
| Suffolk | 1,314 | 196 | 1,323 | 195 | 1,307 | 191 | 1,358 | 196 |
| Surrey | 1,942 | 183 | 1,959 | 184 | 1,967 | 184 | 1,963 | 183 |
| Sussex | 3,090 | 206 | 3,094 | 205 | 3,127 | 207 | 3,113 | 205 |
| Thames Valley | 4,103 | 195 | 4,189 | 198 | 4,288 | 202 | 4,260 | 199 |
| Warwickshire | 1,011 | 197 | 1,012 | 195 | 1,040 | 198 | 1,061 | 199 |
| West Mercia | 2,365 | 202 | 2,380 | 203 | 2,385 | 202 | 2,428 | 205 |
| West Midlands | 8,008 | 311 | 8,154 | 316 | 8,192 | 318 | 8,245 | 318 |
| West Yorkshire | 5,313 | 254 | 5,671 | 271 | 5,685 | 270 | 5,713 | 270 |
| Wiltshire | 1,225 | 198 | 1,229 | 198 | 1,230 | 196 | 1,208 | 192 |

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity leave.
[3] Figures for 1997 to March 2002 exclude those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore figures after March 2002 are not directly comparable with prior years.
[4] Figures from April 2002 onwards include those officers who are on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.
[5] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.
[6] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan police are combined.

## Police: Misrepresentation

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were charged with wasting police time, other than by making malicious complaints against the police, in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [167018]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is not held centrally. Wasting police time by giving false reports is a summary offence and is not included in the Home Office recorded crime statistics.

## Police: Rural Areas

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on her policy for rural policing. [166965]

**Mr. McNulty:** The full implementation of Neighbourhood Policing is due to be completed by April 2008 when all 43 police forces in England and Wales will have local neighbourhood policing teams covering their entire force area. Neighbourhood policing is designed to be tailored to the priorities and needs of local communities whether they are urban or rural.

The NPIA National Neighbourhood Policing Programme Team is in the final process of designing a guide to assist practitioners at all levels in the service in delivering and sustaining neighbourhood policing within rural communities. This is identifying and addressing neighbourhood priorities, improving engagement and delivering safer neighbourhoods where people have confidence in the police and their partners to deal with the issues that affect them directly.

"Building Communities, Beating Crime" provided a vision of a police service that is both accessible and responsive to the needs of the citizen. "Neighbourhood Policing—Your Police, Your Community, Our Commitment" sets out the plans to deliver a neighbourhood policing team in every area by 2008. This guide will assist in making the vision and plans a reality.

**Police: Stun Guns**

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions Taser stun guns have been *(a)* drawn, *(b)* arced as a demonstration warning, *(c)* applied in a drive stun and *(d)* fired by each police force since 2003. [165669]

**Mr. McNulty:** Five police forces in England and Wales started trialling the use of Taser in April 2003. In September 2004 my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary approved chief officers throughout England and Wales to deploy Taser to authorised firearms officers in their force where a firearms authority has been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the ACPO Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms.

Since 20 July 2007 authorised police firearms officers in England and Wales have been able to deploy Taser in operations or incidents where the use of firearms is not authorised, but where they are facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves or the subject. The deployment of Taser by specially trained police units who are not firearms officers, but who are facing similar threats of violence, is also being trialled in 10 police forces. The 12-month trial began on 1 September 2007.

The use of Taser by police forces in England and Wales has been provided by the Association of Chief Police Officers and is shown in the following table. The figures in the table do not include uses by authorised firearms officers outside a firearms operation or in the trial by specially trained units. These figures have not yet been centrally collated and verified.

| *Force* | *Drawn/ aimed/ red-dot* | *Arced* | *Drive stunned* | *Fired* | *Total incidents when Taser 'used'* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 12 |
| Bedfordshire | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 11 |
| Cambridgeshire | 15 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 17 |
| Cheshire | 4 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 12 |
| City of London | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Cleveland | 27 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 48 |
| Cumbria | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| Derbyshire | 12 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 14 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 10 |
| Dorset | 26 | 3 | 2 | 15 | 46 |
| Durham | 23 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 40 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Essex | 5 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 12 |
| Gloucester | 10 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 17 |
| GMP | 4 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 16 |
| Gwent | 5 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 9 |
| Hampshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Hertfordshire | 9 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 16 |
| Humberside | 24 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 30 |
| Lancashire | 15 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 27 |
| Leicestershire | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Lincolnshire* | 11 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 21 |
| Kent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Merseyside | 22 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 30 |
| Metropolitan* | 66 | 4 | 27 | 112 | 209 |
| Norfolk | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| North Wales* | 48 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 63 |
| North Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northants* | 8 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 13 |
| Northumbria | 42 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 47 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| South Wales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Staffordshire | 37 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 41 |
| Suffolk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Surrey | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Sussex | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| Thames Valley* | 5 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 11 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Mercia | 8 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 14 |
| West Midlands | 18 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 41 |
| West Yorkshire | 40 | 6 | 3 | 33 | 82 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 504 | 36 | 45 | 382 | 967 |

* Denotes original trial force (includes data from April 2003)

*Notes:*

1. Table as at 16 November 2007 (England and Wales)
2. Only the highest level of 'use' during each incident is recorded (multiple uses during the same incident are only recorded once on this table)

**Robbery**

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many robberies there were in each police force area in each year since 1997. [167101]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is given in the following tables:

*Table 1: Recorded offences of robbery, 1997*

| | 1997 |
|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 1,562 |
| Bedfordshire | 531 |
| British Transport Police | — |
| Cambridgeshire | 350 |
| Cheshire | 319 |
| Cleveland | 507 |
| Cumbria | 101 |
| Derbyshire | 396 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 389 |
| Dorset | 206 |
| Durham | 142 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 34 |
| Essex | 438 |
| Gloucestershire | 369 |
| Greater Manchester | 6,296 |
| Gwent | 156 |
| Hampshire | 554 |
| Hertfordshire | 289 |
| Humberside | 757 |
| Kent | 709 |
| Lancashire | 845 |
| Leicestershire | 880 |
| Lincolnshire | 107 |

*Table 1: Recorded offences of robbery, 1997*

| | 1997 |
|---|---|
| London, City of | 34 |
| Merseyside | 2,141 |
| Metropolitan Police | 27,386 |
| Norfolk | 189 |
| Northamptonshire | 415 |
| Northumbria | 1,260 |
| North Wales | 112 |
| North Yorkshire | 198 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,145 |
| South Wales | 509 |
| South Yorkshire | 946 |
| Staffordshire | 498 |
| Suffolk | 141 |
| Surrey | 192 |
| Sussex | 681 |
| Thames Valley | 1,256 |
| Warwickshire | 146 |
| West Mercia | 287 |
| West Midlands | 6,737 |
| West Yorkshire | 2,698 |
| Wiltshire | 164 |
| England and Wales | 63,072 |

*Table 2: Recorded offences of robbery, 1998-99 to 2001-02*

| | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 1,831 | 2,381 | 2,765 | 4,889 |
| Bedfordshire | 530 | 615 | 663 | 957 |
| British Transport Police | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Cambridgeshire | 437 | 548 | 539 | 679 |
| Cheshire | 397 | 466 | 486 | 472 |
| Cleveland | 908 | 839 | 932 | 1,264 |
| Cumbria | 119 | 90 | 94 | 143 |
| Derbyshire | 504 | 584 | 773 | 1,029 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 462 | 487 | 452 | 474 |
| Dorset | 205 | 241 | 309 | 334 |
| Durham | 172 | 236 | 231 | 284 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 42 | 28 | 23 | 26 |
| Essex | 523 | 626 | 700 | 920 |
| Gloucestershire | 273 | 291 | 363 | 498 |
| Greater Manchester | 7,632 | 8,634 | 9,918 | 11,027 |
| Gwent | 173 | 216 | 244 | 215 |
| Hampshire | 588 | 732 | 794 | 872 |
| Hertfordshire | 250 | 420 | 508 | 678 |
| Humberside | 839 | 950 | 999 | 1,190 |
| Kent | 712 | 827 | 1,000 | 1,003 |
| Lancashire | 981 | 1,058 | 1,224 | 1,608 |
| Leicestershire | 967 | 1,023 | 1,067 | 1,167 |
| Lincolnshire | 149 | 178 | 191 | 251 |
| London, City of | 29 | 49 | 53 | 46 |
| Merseyside | 2,484 | 2,663 | 2,405 | 3,155 |
| Metropolitan Police | 26,330 | 36,317 | 40,992 | 53,547 |
| Norfolk | 220 | 297 | 330 | 401 |
| Northamptonshire | 443 | 481 | 604 | 877 |
| Northumbria | 1,347 | 1,389 | 1,381 | 1,390 |
| North Wales | 127 | 146 | 163 | 194 |
| North Yorkshire | 170 | 212 | 186 | 291 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,312 | 1,768 | 2,050 | 2,725 |
| South Wales | 511 | 519 | 460 | 595 |
| South Yorkshire | 979 | 1,122 | 1,438 | 1,952 |

*Table 2: Recorded offences of robbery, 1998-99 to 2001-02*

| | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Staffordshire | 509 | 697 | 796 | 963 |
| Suffolk | 140 | 223 | 177 | 289 |
| Surrey | 171 | 224 | 456 | 519 |
| Sussex | 939 | 1,020 | 1,241 | 1,250 |
| Thames Valley | 1,327 | 1,659 | 2,147 | 2,894 |
| Warwickshire | 170 | 224 | 252 | 370 |
| West Mercia | 351 | 359 | 423 | 646 |
| West Midlands | 7,315 | 10,092 | 11,351 | 13,322 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,072 | 3,088 | 3,781 | 5,674 |
| Wiltshire | 195 | 258 | 193 | 279 |
| England and Wales | 66,835 | 84,277 | 95,154 | 121,359 |

n/a = Not available.
*Notes:*
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Table 3: Recorded offences of robbery, 2002-03 to 2006-07*

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 3,504 | 2,908 | 2,237 | 2,036 | 1,987 |
| Bedfordshire | 997 | 993 | 1,028 | 1,317 | 1,248 |
| British Transport Police | 2,242 | 2,542 | 2,037 | 2,166 | 1,953 |
| Cambridgeshire | 906 | 786 | 634 | 562 | 733 |
| Cheshire | 631 | 647 | 533 | 654 | 688 |
| Cleveland | 1,434 | 1,355 | 898 | 715 | 576 |
| Cumbria | 130 | 124 | 109 | 87 | 68 |
| Derbyshire | 1,048 | 1,019 | 302 | 772 | 870 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 710 | 562 | 541 | 566 | 649 |
| Dorset | 437 | 445 | 342 | 255 | 190 |
| Durham | 287 | 267 | 178 | 281 | 233 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 40 | 54 | 41 | 40 | 47 |
| Essex | 1,328 | 1,476 | 1,426 | 1,424 | 1,531 |
| Gloucestershire | 521 | 541 | 384 | 476 | 394 |
| Greater Manchester | 10,745 | 9,246 | 7,544 | 7,719 | 8,213 |
| Gwent | 329 | 274 | 351 | 316 | 282 |
| Hampshire | 966 | 1,040 | 948 | 1,078 | 1,212 |
| Hertfordshire | 862 | 972 | 875 | 933 | 985 |
| Humberside | 1,807 | 1,896 | 1,262 | 1,185 | 1,200 |
| Kent | 1,242 | 1,172 | 1,195 | 1,351 | 1,403 |
| Lancashire | 1,409 | 1,285 | 1,092 | 1,021 | 1,014 |
| Leicestershire | 1,453 | 1,476 | 1,329 | 1,244 | 1,214 |
| Lincolnshire | 307 | 304 | 243 | 229 | 230 |
| London, City of | 45 | 50 | 42 | 39 | 41 |
| Merseyside | 2,994 | 2,347 | 2,173 | 2,502 | 2,290 |
| Metropolitan Police | 42,493 | 40,639 | 39,033 | 45,311 | 45,771 |
| Norfolk | 579 | 459 | 324 | 301 | 359 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,015 | 1,220 | 875 | 1,069 | 1,037 |
| Northumbria | 1,442 | 1,223 | 1,176 | 1,070 | 1,055 |
| North Wales | 224 | 201 | 149 | 150 | 134 |
| North Yorkshire | 356 | 395 | 328 | 240 | 278 |
| Nottinghamshire | 2,799 | 2,556 | 2,011 | 2,112 | 2,434 |
| South Wales | 784 | 751 | 543 | 631 | 891 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,112 | 1,400 | 1,131 | 1,258 | 1,594 |
| Staffordshire | 900 | 909 | 777 | 766 | 758 |
| Suffolk | 249 | 290 | 260 | 271 | 271 |
| Surrey | 605 | 619 | 462 | 446 | 446 |
| Sussex | 1,319 | 1,425 | 1,228 | 1,098 | 1,007 |
| Thames Valley | 2,406 | 2,286 | 1,968 | 1,926 | 2,320 |
| Warwickshire | 354 | 456 | 353 | 429 | 486 |

*Table 3: Recorded offences of robbery, 2002-03 to 2006-07*

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Mercia | 728 | 689 | 531 | 453 | 581 |
| West Midlands | 10,249 | 10,371 | 9,165 | 8,867 | 9,186 |
| West Yorkshire | 4,947 | 3,738 | 2,196 | 2,531 | 3,148 |
| Wiltshire | 336 | 328 | 256 | 301 | 363 |
| England and Wales | 110,271 | 103,736 | 91,010 | 98,198 | 101,370 |

*Note:*
1. The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

### Terrorism: Control Orders

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females issued with control orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 have absconded, broken down by age group; and how many were subsequently re-captured in each year since the Act came into force. [167431]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to written ministerial statements in relation to control orders published on 11 December 2006, 16 January 2007, 22 March 2007, 24 May 2007, 21 June 2007 and 17 September 2007.

### Terrorism: Convictions

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of terrorist-related offences in each of the last five years, broken down by age group; [167424]

(2) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females who were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of terrorist-related offences were resident in Southend in each of the last five years. [167425]

**Mr. McNulty:** We do not collate this information in the format requested.

Statistics compiled from police records show that between 11 September 2001 and 31 March 2007, 1,228 arrests were made under the Terrorism Act 2000 or under other legislation, where the investigation was conducted as a terrorist investigation. Of those charged 41 were convicted under the Terrorism Act and 183 under other legislation including conspiracy to murder.

This information can be found on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/?view=Standard

### Terrorism: Detainees

**Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 86W, on terrorism detainees, how many of the eight people detained and charged were charged with terrorism offences only. [165946]

**Mr. McNulty:** All eight individuals were charged with terrorism-related offences. However, not all offences with which suspected terrorists may be charged are necessarily contained in the Terrorism Act. Many are charged with offences under other legislation such as the Firearms Act or the Explosives Substances Act. The breakdown of charges for the eight individuals is listed as follows:

| | *Charge* |
|---|---|
| 1. | 1x Conspiracy to Murder (Sec 1(1) Criminal Law Act 1977)<br>1x Preparation of Terrorist Acts (Sec 5 (1) TACT 2006) |
| 2. | 1x Preparation of Terrorist Acts (Sec 5 (1) TACT 2006)<br>1x Possession of a Prohibited Weapon (Sec 5.1 Firearms Act 1968)<br>1x Possession of ammunition (Sec 1.1b Firearms Act 1968)<br>1x Possession of a silencer without a firearms licence (Sec 1.1b Firearms Act 1968) |
| 3. | 1x Having information about acts of terrorism (Sec 38b (1)(a) and (2) TACT 2000 |
| 4. | 1 x Preparation of Terrorist Acts (Sec 5 (1) TACT 2006) |
| 5. | 1x Conspiracy to Murder (Sec 1 (1) Criminal Law Act 1977)<br>1x Preparation of Terrorist Acts (Sec 5 (1) TACT 2006) |
| 6. | 1x Conspiracy to Murder (Sec 1 (1) Criminal Law Act 1977)<br>1 x Preparation of Terrorist Acts (Sec 5 (1) TACT 2006) |
| 7. | 1x Attending a place for instruction or training in terrorism (Sec 8 TACT 2006)<br>1x Collection of information for terrorism purposes (Sec 58 (1)(a) TACT 2000 |
| 8. | 1x Conspiracy to cause explosions (Section 3 (1a) of the Explosives Substances Act 1883) |

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what international comparisons of detention without charge limits she has made between the UK and *(a)* European, *(b)* North American and *(c)* Commonwealth countries; and if she will place the information in the Library. [168495]

**Mr. McNulty:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs published a document entitled "Counter-Terrorism Legislation and Practice: A Survey of Selected Countries" in October 2005. This can be found at: www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/QSpercent20Draftpercent2010percent20FINAL1.pdf. We remain informed on the counter-terrorism legislative systems of other countries.

## Theft: Bicycles

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported thefts of bicycles there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166934]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information is given in the following tables.

*Table 1: recorded offences of theft of a pedal cycle—1997*

| | 1997 |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | n/a |
| Barnet | n/a |
| Bexley | n/a |
| Brent | n/a |
| Bromley | n/a |
| Camden | n/a |
| City of Westminster | n/a |
| Croydon | n/a |
| Ealing | n/a |
| Enfield | n/a |
| Greenwich | n/a |
| Hackney | n/a |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | n/a |
| Haringey | n/a |
| Harrow | n/a |
| Havering | n/a |
| Hillingdon | n/a |
| Hounslow | n/a |
| Islington | n/a |
| Kensington and Chelsea | n/a |
| Kingston upon Thames | n/a |
| Lambeth | n/a |
| Lewisham | n/a |
| Merton | n/a |
| Newham | n/a |
| Redbridge | n/a |
| Richmond upon Thames | n/a |
| Southwark | n/a |
| Sutton | n/a |
| Tower Hamlets | n/a |
| Waltham Forest | n/a |
| Wandsworth | n/a |
| Total | 17,276 |
| Total London[1] | 17,433 |
| Total England | 134,401 |

n/a = not available.
[1] includes the City of London police and the Metropolitan police service.

*Table 2: Recorded offences of theft of a pedal cycle—1998-99 to 2001-02*

| | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | n/a | n/a | 165 | 123 |
| Barnet | n/a | n/a | 215 | 210 |
| Bexley | n/a | n/a | 201 | 154 |
| Brent | n/a | n/a | 217 | 242 |
| Bromley | n/a | n/a | 254 | 247 |
| Camden | n/a | n/a | 1,007 | 1,072 |
| City of Westminster | n/a | n/a | 1,076 | 1,148 |
| Croydon | n/a | n/a | 287 | 275 |
| Ealing | n/a | n/a | 502 | 452 |
| Enfield | n/a | n/a | 225 | 203 |
| Greenwich | n/a | n/a | 220 | 210 |
| Hackney | n/a | n/a | 619 | 726 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | n/a | n/a | 1,010 | 1,006 |
| Haringey | n/a | n/a | 225 | 168 |
| Harrow | n/a | n/a | 100 | 132 |
| Havering | n/a | n/a | 202 | 180 |
| Hillingdon | n/a | n/a | 359 | 264 |
| Hounslow | n/a | n/a | 571 | 473 |
| Islington | n/a | n/a | 785 | 829 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | n/a | n/a | 715 | 730 |
| Kingston upon Thames | n/a | n/a | 409 | 392 |
| Lambeth | n/a | n/a | 771 | 805 |
| Lewisham | n/a | n/a | 233 | 188 |
| Merton | n/a | n/a | 320 | 396 |
| Newham | n/a | n/a | 283 | 232 |
| Redbridge | n/a | n/a | 156 | 159 |
| Richmond upon Thames | n/a | n/a | 562 | 540 |
| Southwark | n/a | n/a | 742 | 725 |
| Sutton | n/a | n/a | 243 | 183 |
| Tower Hamlets | n/a | n/a | 712 | 698 |
| Waltham Forest | n/a | n/a | 196 | 193 |

*Table 2: Recorded offences of theft of a pedal cycle—1998-99 to 2001-02*

| | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wandsworth | n/a | n/a | 883 | 978 |
| Total | 17,092 | 18,659 | 14,465 | 14,333 |
| Total London[1] | 17,350 | 18,909 | 14,668 | 14,667 |
| Total England | 124,074 | 126,748 | 104,789 | 99,041 |

n/a = not available.
[1] Includes the City of London police and the Metropolitan police service.
*Notes*:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

*Table 3: recorded offences of theft of a pedal cycle—2002-03 to 2006-07*

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 120 | 170 | 215 | 220 | 174 |
| Barnet | 218 | 374 | 341 | 398 | 247 |
| Bexley | 116 | 139 | 144 | 133 | 115 |
| Brent | 229 | 320 | 325 | 326 | 259 |
| Bromley | 179 | 211 | 284 | 225 | 212 |
| Camden | 1,347 | 1,491 | 1,337 | 1,521 | 1,329 |
| City of Westminster | 1,165 | 1,226 | 1,347 | 1,453 | 1,277 |
| Croydon | 240 | 262 | 294 | 325 | 264 |
| Ealing | 467 | 617 | 571 | 584 | 448 |
| Enfield | 186 | 195 | 214 | 226 | 179 |
| Greenwich | 249 | 304 | 275 | 451 | 395 |
| Hackney | 1,019 | 1,060 | 980 | 1,111 | 1,167 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,058 | 1,271 | 1,085 | 1,017 | 1,046 |
| Haringey | 247 | 284 | 339 | 405 | 392 |
| Harrow | 128 | 142 | 133 | 140 | 121 |
| Havering | 143 | 198 | 181 | 178 | 130 |
| Hillingdon | 264 | 275 | 251 | 367 | 247 |
| Hounslow | 405 | 533 | 528 | 613 | 569 |
| Islington | 1,140 | 1,898 | 1,745 | 1,821 | 1,682 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 834 | 858 | 877 | 919 | 758 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 387 | 674 | 784 | 859 | 479 |
| Lambeth | 785 | 943 | 952 | 1,196 | 1,022 |
| Lewisham | 270 | 351 | 346 | 492 | 362 |
| Merton | 360 | 507 | 503 | 530 | 320 |
| Newham | 323 | 327 | 312 | 336 | 275 |
| Redbridge | 122 | 168 | 141 | 203 | 168 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 559 | 650 | 878 | 765 | 739 |
| Southwark | 798 | 1,052 | 1,070 | 1,191 | 1,248 |
| Sutton | 188 | 220 | 263 | 307 | 232 |
| Tower Hamlets | 846 | 1,132 | 1,156 | 1,307 | 1,061 |
| Waltham Forest | 176 | 180 | 227 | 271 | 366 |
| Wandsworth | 1,237 | 1,226 | 1,217 | 1,346 | 1,357 |
| Total | 15,805 | 19,258 | 19,315 | 21,236 | 18,640 |
| Total London[1] | 16,232 | 19,613 | 19,634 | 21,572 | 18,954 |
| Total England | 91,589 | 98,961 | 98,860 | 105,778 | 102,485 |

[1] includes the City of London police and the Metropolitan police service.
*Note*:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

### Tobacco: Young People

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police cautions and *(b)* fines were issued to (i) confectioners and tobacconists and (ii) other retailers selling tobacco products to those aged under 16 years in each year since 1997; what the average fine levied was in each year; and how many such offences were recorded in each year. [166837]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information on the number of recorded offences of retailers selling tobacco products to those aged under 16 years is not collected centrally.

This is a summary offence and is not included in the police recorded crime statistics.

Statistics on the number of police cautions issued, the number of fines imposed and the average fines have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and are given in the table for 1997 to 2005. No information is collected centrally to distinguish between confectionists, tobacconists and other retailers. Data for 2006 are due for publication in late November.

*Offenders[1] cautioned and fined for selling tobacco etc. to persons under 16[2]*

| | Number of police cautions issued | Number of fines imposed | Average fine amount (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 5 | 90 | 238 |
| 1998 | — | 115 | 226 |
| 1999 | 3 | 90 | 237 |
| 2000 | 2 | 113 | 349 |
| 2001 | 1 | 74 | 301 |
| 2002 | 2 | 67 | 283 |
| 2003 | — | 82 | 322 |
| 2004 | — | 50 | 274 |
| 2005 | 2 | 56 | 328 |

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.
[2] Children and Young Persons Act 1933 section 7 as amended by the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 section 1.
*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.
*Source:*
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice.

### West Yorkshire Police: Rescue Services

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the West Yorkshire Police Service has a duty to respond to water rescue; and if she will make a statement. [166279]

**Mr. McNulty:** This is a matter for the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Land Mines

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in clearing the land area and area contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan in accordance with the Afghanistan Compact. [167420]

**Mr. Malik:** I have been asked to reply.

Through the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) the Government of Afghanistan is committed to

'reducing the area of land contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) by 70 per cent. by 2010'.

Estimates at the end of May 2007 put total contaminated land in Afghanistan at 778 square kilometres. Despite a shortfall in funding for demining activities during 2006, 133 square kilometres of previously contaminated land was cleared. This exceeded the target set by the mine action programme for Afghanistan (MAPA) of 110 square kilometres of land to be cleared each year in order to meet the Compact benchmark. The Government of Afghanistan is confident in its ability to meet the target it has set for itself.

The Government of Afghanistan was, however, unable to meet its international treaty (Ottawa convention) obligation on the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines by 1 March 2007. It has subsequently set out in the Afghanistan Compact to

'destroy all remaining stockpiled anti-personnel mines by the end of 2007'

and is confident that the two remaining stockpiles, located in the Panjshir Province, will be destroyed by this new deadline.

### Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of UK aid to Afghanistan was channelled through *(a)* the core budget of the Government of Afghanistan, *(b)* UN-administered trust funds and *(c)* UK administered projects in the latest period for which figures are available. [167252]

**Mr. Malik:** I have been asked to reply.

76 per cent. of DFID's 2006-07 bilateral aid budget for Afghanistan was channelled through the core budget of the Government of Afghanistan.

Less than 1 per cent. of DFID's 2006-07 bilateral aid budget for Afghanistan was channelled through UN-administered trust funds.

The remainder, approximately 23 per cent. of DFID's 2006-07 bilateral aid budget for Afghanistan was channelled through UK administered projects.

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the Afghan Government on improved international co-ordination of reconstruction and development assistance to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [167262]

**Mr. Malik:** I have been asked to reply.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development, discussed international co-ordination of reconstruction and development assistance with president Karzai during his visit to the UK in October. They discussed the Afghan National Development strategy (ANDS), due to be published in March 2008, and agreed that this strategy will encourage greater donor co-ordination. In addition, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development also discussed this issue with president Karzai and other representatives of the Government of Afghanistan during their visits to Afghanistan earlier this year.

It is critical for Afghanistan's future development that the donor community co-ordinates its assistance in support of Afghan Government priorities. Co-ordination of international assistance and improved effectiveness of aid is a major objective of DFID's policy support to Afghanistan. This is why DFID Ministers and officials

are regularly engaged in dialogue with the Government of Afghanistan on the development of the ANDS and the most appropriate way for the international community to support it. In recent weeks both the Afghan Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister of Finance have visited DFID and discussed this issue along with others.

**Azerbaijan: Politics and Government**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the ability of *(a)* opposition politicians, *(b)* the media, *(c)* members of the judiciary and *(d)* other representatives of civil society in Azerbaijan to be able to operate free from Government interference or pressure; and if he will make a statement. [166751]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** We have serious concerns on these issues and regularly raise them at all levels with the Government of Azerbaijan. The EU last reviewed progress on the EU European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan for Azerbaijan with members of the Government of Azerbaijan on 18 October 2007. The EU underlined the importance of the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as identifying further steps to strengthen democracy and media freedom.

Despite some positive legislative reform, freedom of expression and freedom of the media has deteriorated significantly in the last two years. A number of journalists have been jailed under criminal libel laws that have restricted debate. Others have faced harassment and beatings. We have raised these issues and specific cases regularly with the authorities, most recently with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and Council of Europe have identified a number of shortcomings in the judicial system. The Ministry of Justice has taken important steps to improve the training of judges, but there is still significant room for improvement.

The political Opposition faces impediments to its ability to operate freely. Together with international partners, we have stressed to the Government of Azerbaijan how important it is that the forthcoming Presidential elections are held in full compliance with the commitments undertaken to the EU, OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and Council of Europe.

**Azerbaijan: Prisoners**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Azerbaijan on the prison conditions of *(a)* Farhad Aliev and *(b)* Rafig Aliev; and if he will make a statement. [166750]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** As my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoo), then Minister for Europe stated in his reply to the hon. Member's question on this subject on 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 991W, we reminded the Government of Azerbaijan of the need to respect the right of access to appropriate medical care, in light of concerns about Farhad Aliev's health. Through international bodies, including the EU and Council of Europe, we continue to raise our concerns about overall prison conditions with the Government of Azerbaijan. The authorities in Azerbaijan are working with international partners to make improvements to conditions and health care in their prisons. While improvements have been made, overall conditions remain a concern.

**Belgium: Politics and Government**

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Belgium. [167400]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Negotiations to form a new Government in Belgium continue, following elections earlier this year. We continue to work closely with the current Belgian Government and look forward to working with the new Government when negotiations are complete.

**Bosnia: Sanctions**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on Bosnia and Herzegovina, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166068]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

There are no EU financial sanctions imposed on Bosnia and Herzegovina. EU Common Position 2004/694/Common Foreign and Security Policy imposed an asset freeze on individuals indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. To date no funds have been identified in the UK.

**British Overseas Territories: Nature Conservation**

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the Government have had with authorities of each of the overseas territories on amendments to animal protection regulations; and if he will make a statement. [167332]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not had specific discussions with the overseas territories on amendments to their animal protection regulations. Environmental issues within each overseas territory are the responsibility of the local government. The Overseas Territories Environment Programme has provided funding to Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and Anguilla to update their more general environmental legislation, which includes animal protection legislation.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government will be taking palliative action in relation to the effect of climate change on reef environments in Her Majesty's overseas territories. [167360]

**Meg Munn:** The Government are concerned about the effect that climate change is having on reef environments in the overseas territories, which account for approximately 2 per cent. of the world's coral. The United Kingdom chaired the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), a forum to discuss the protection and safeguarding of coral reefs from 2003 to 2005. The current chairs are Mexico and the USA. The next meeting of ICRI will take place in Washington in January 2008. Particular attention will be given to the protection of coral reefs in the Caribbean, including the overseas territories.

The Overseas Territories Environment Programme, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development funded programme, identified mitigation of the effects of climate change as a priority for the overseas territories. Through this programme, we have funded a number of climate change-related projects including an ongoing study of the coral reefs in the British Indian Ocean Territories (BIOT) territorial waters. We have also funded the establishment of a coral reef identification guide for use by marine biologists.

Regular scientific expeditions to BIOT to monitor the marine environment, including coral reefs, are undertaken by the BIOT environmental adviser from Warwick University.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government have allocated to the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum; and if he will make a statement. [167364]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not provide funding for the administration of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. Through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, a joint FCO and Department for International Development (DFID) funded programme, we have provided funds to the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum to carry out specific projects. The FCO provided £68,502 to the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum for project activities in 2006-07. DFID has provided £81,706 so far this financial year for project activities.

### Bulgaria: Children

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Bulgarian Government on the standard of care given to children in *(a)* state institutions and *(b)* adult institutions. [167052]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* The UK has actively supported Bulgaria in its efforts to improve standards of child care given to children in institutions, both during the country's accession negotiations and since it joined the EU. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has recently completed a project contributing to the introduction of inclusive education for children with special educational needs and from ethnic minorities.

Much, however remains to be done. Our embassy in Sofia has raised the issue with the Bulgarian Prime Minister, Justice Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Policy and we remain in close touch with the authorities. We are pleased that they are harnessing EU funds to help speed up implementation of reforms in this area.

The embassy is also in regular contact with members of the non-governmental organisation (NGO) community active in this field. Our staff are encouraging NGOs to work together and alongside the Bulgarian authorities, to help implement the necessary reforms. The Bulgarians have announced that they will direct €5 million of EU structural funds for 2008 to deal with this problem.

### Burma: Mining

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to ensure that gems originally mined in Burma and processed in third countries will not be sold in the UK. [167153]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK played a key role securing EU agreement at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) on 15 October to extend sanctions against Burma. These measures were formally adopted at the GAERC on 19 November, including the prohibition of the import of timber, metals, minerals and precious and semi-precious stones from Burma, and an investment ban in these sectors. The October GAERC made clear the EU stood ready to review, amend or reinforce these measures and requested relevant bodies to elaborate further restrictive measures.

The regulation which will follow the adoption of the Common Position will address a number of points related to the implementation of the sanctions, including direct and indirect sales of precious and semi-precious stones from Burma. This will be negotiated in the coming weeks. The UK will press for the strictest possible implementation of the agreed sanctions.

### CIC Material

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason material referring to the CIC, redacted from a copy of a covering letter sent by his Department to the hon. Member for Billericay on 19 July was described as sensitive. [167674]

**Dr. Howells:** In assessing our response to the hon. Member's request that I "confirm that Lord Hutton was made aware of" John Williams's document, made in his letter to me of 18 June, we redacted the reference to material used by John Williams in his drafting because it was not relevant to the request and because we wished to protect the process that Williams used.

However in considering our response to the hon. Member's subsequent request for the release of this information we concluded that the public interest in releasing this information outweighed that in withholding it.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166654]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The percentage of imported beef, lamb, pork and dairy products used within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the UK is as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Beef | 22 |
| Lamb | 40 |
| Pork | 38 |
| Dairy Products | 10 |

The information in the table refers to the period August 2007 to October 2007, as this is the most recent for which figures are available.

The procurement of FCO catering supplies is based on value for money, having due regard to propriety and regularity.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167229]

**Meg Munn:** The information necessary to provide a comprehensive answer is not held centrally, as Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) departments are responsible for their own budgets; to collate the information requested by my hon. Friend would incur disproportionate cost.

However, the providers of corporate software in use across the FCO network include Microsoft (desktop operating system and office automation), Oracle (financial and human resources), McAfee (anti-virus), Adobe (portable document reader), Citrix (web-based applications) and Hewlett-Packard, Sophos, Mailmarshall and Clearswift (network management).

Many other software products are in use to meet specific functional needs in the UK and at posts overseas.

### Departmental Manpower

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised civil service code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162447]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162448]

(3) when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised civil service code. [162449]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) gave to him on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 596-97W.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what entertainment or hospitality members of his Department's management board received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164752]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

For previous years the information requested is not held centrally, but all Foreign and Commonwealth Office Board members are clear that all hospitality accepted must adhere to Diplomatic Service Regulations No. 4 which follows paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167348]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not record expenditure on managing its corporate identity as an identifiable activity. This information could be obtained only by examining individual invoices and this could be done only at disproportionate cost. This also applies to the expenditure of the Department's agencies, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services and Wilton Park.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167356]

**Mr. Malik:** I have been asked to reply.

The last 12 month period for which figures are available is October 2006-07. Management of the DFID corporate identity is a minor, routine function of the campaigns and marketing team, with no staff or budget dedicated to this activity.

The only specific amount spent between October 2006-07 was £389.34, used to purchase the intellectual property rights for the DFID emergency aid logo.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167957]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not keep a central record of amounts spent on advertising. The information required to answer this question could be obtained only by requiring individual budget holders in the FCO to examine all invoices for the last 12 months. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on recruitment advertising makes up a large part of the Department's overall expenditure on advertising. For details of expenditure on recruitment advertising in 2006-07, and preceding financial years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), then Minister for Europe (Mr. Hoon) to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1605W.

## Departmental Recruitment

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165106]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Recruitment in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is split into two specific areas—volume recruitment (jobs in generalist grades, such as administrative assistant, administrative officer and operational officer); specialist recruitment (jobs which require specific skills or expertise such as researchers, legal advisers, accountants). This area also includes temporary recruitment (short-term contracts for work on specific projects). Figures on those recruited into each area are provided as follows:

*Volume recruitment*

| *Age band* | *Applied* | *Interviewed* | *Temporary Employment* | *Permanent Employment* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *A1 Administrative Assistants* | | | | |
| 30-39 | 386 | 52 | 0 | 24 |
| 40-49 | 101 | 29 | 0 | 8 |
| 50-59 | 86 | 16 | 0 | 6 |
| 60-69 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *A2 Administrative Officers* | | | | |
| 30-39 | 262 | 21 | 0 | 10 |
| 40-49 | 131 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| 50-59 | 29 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 60-69 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *B3 Operational Officers* | | | | |
| 30-39 | 1,551 | 57 | 0 | 13 |
| 40-49 | 655 | 6 | 0 | 5 |
| 50-59 | 132 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 60-69 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Note:*
Figures include applications/interviews from campaigns spanning 2006-07.

*Specialist Recruitment*

| *Age band* | *Interviewed* | *Temporary employment* | *Permanent employment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 30-39 | 29 | 1 | 2 |
| 40-49 | 29 | 13 | 8 |
| 50-59 | 17 | 0 | 3 |
| 60-69 | 3 | 14 | 0 |
| 70+ | n/a | 4 | 0 |

*Notes:*
1. For specialist recruitment campaigns, data are currently only available from interview or assessment onwards.
2. For fixed term contracts of less than one year's duration, appointees are not required to go through a full application and interview process—this explains the figures in the 60-69 and 70+ groups.

*Fast stream*

| *Age band* | *Assessment centre* | *Interviewed* | *Permanent employment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 30-39 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 40-49 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 50-59 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 60-69 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 70+ | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Note:*
Fast stream data only take into consideration the stages of selection administered by the FCO. The Cabinet Office runs the selection processes prior to this, however statistics are not yet available for the 2007 cohort.

## Departmental Written Questions

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is his Department's practice to attach to Written Answers hard copies of earlier replies cited in such Answers where these were previously given to hon. Members other than the hon. Member to whom the Answer is addressed. [167768]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons gave to him today (UIN 168300).

## Entry Clearances: Biometrics

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether foreign nationals with visas containing biometric data will be required also to obtain an identity card. [166096]

**Dr. Howells:** From next year, we will incrementally require all foreign nationals, who are subject to immigration control and in the UK for over six months, to apply for an identity card (Biometric Immigration Document). This will eventually include applicants applying for further leave to remain in the UK, who have previously been issued with a biometrically enabled visa.

## Eritrea and Ethiopia: Relations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia on stability in the Horn of Africa. [165365]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government continue to be concerned by the potential for relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia to affect stability in the horn of Africa. Crucially, the dispute over their mutual border remains unresolved.

Tension on the border is rising with more forces being deployed by both sides. We are monitoring the situation closely and urging maximum restraint by both sides and a de-escalation of their military build-up.

We are also urging both sides to agree a way forward which will allow demarcation of the border to proceed to the normalisation of their relations.

### European Union

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many EU flags are *(a)* held and *(b)* owned by his Department and its agencies. [164538]

**Meg Munn:** The number of EU flags (various sizes) purchased, held and owned by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since January 2005 is 105.

### Foreign Workers: Conditions of Employment

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are in place to protect domestic workers of foreign diplomats in the UK from potential exploitation. [167021]

**Meg Munn:** Private servants that work for foreign diplomats in the UK are protected from potential exploitation by UK law. We expect foreign diplomats to obey our laws and regulations and take seriously any alleged violation by those entitled to immunity. We would take appropriate action if any allegations of exploitation were to be brought to our attention.

Private servants of foreign diplomats that are recruited from overseas are also protected from potential exploitation by our entry clearance rules. These aim to ensure that foreign diplomats provide written confirmation of the terms and conditions of their workers' employment, together with a separate undertaking that their workers will be adequately maintained and accommodated. Private servants are also given details of where they can find out about their rights under the UK's criminal and employment laws.

### France: Overseas Residence

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on UK citizens living in France of the French Government's decision to alter the healthcare arrangements for non-French nationals below the official relevant age; and if he will make a statement. [167038]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Minister of State, Department of Health my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo) to the hon. Member for South-West Devon (Mr. Streeter) on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 59W.

I raised this issue with the French Minister for Europe, Jean-Pierre Jouyet, during my visit to Paris on 15 November. Monsieur Jouyet acknowledged the serious concern about the effect of this decision and agreed to ask his colleagues to look again at the matter.

Our embassy in Paris will also continue to follow the issue closely. It has posted information on its website for those who could be affected.

### Gough Island and Tristanda Cunha: Nature Conservation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to protect the native sea bird population on Gough Island. [167238][1]

**Meg Munn:** Rats and mice have been identified as the main predators of seabirds on Gough Island. The Overseas Territories Environment Programme, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development funded programme, provided £54,954 for the period 2005-07 to the Tristan da Cunha Administration, with technical support being provided by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, to assess the potential for the eradication of these rodents from Gough Island.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government has offered Tristan da Cunha to tackle verminous rodents. [167235]

**Meg Munn:** The Overseas Territories Environment Programme, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development funded programme, provided £54,954 for the period 2005-07 to the Tristan da Cunha Administration to carry out a feasibility study, with technical support from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, on the eradication of introduced rats from Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island. The study will provide costed options for consideration by the local community.

### Iran: Negotiations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what forms of EU-Iran dialogue are under way; and if he will make a statement. [166130]

**David Miliband:** The only formal EU-Iran dialogue is the human rights dialogue which was established in 2002 and has been suspended since June 2004. This dialogue yielded limited results, and in its absence, EU member states continue to raise human rights issues with the Iranians both as the EU, and bilaterally.

The EU's High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, has an important role with regard to the Iranian nuclear issue, on which he negotiates with Iran on behalf of the E3+3.

### Iran: Politics and Government

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Iran. [168547]

**Dr. Howells:** The political establishment in Iran is preparing for the next Majlis (parliamentary) elections on 14 March 2008. Candidates will need to register by early January, and they will be vetted by the Guardian

1. *[Official Report, 6 December 2007, Vol. 468, c. 10MC.]*

Council (which can veto candidates it considers contrary to the interests of the Islamic Republic) six to seven weeks before the election date. In the last round of parliamentary elections, the Guardian Council vetoed the candidacies of more than a third of the 8,000 candidates, most of whom were reformists, and 85 of who were incumbent MPs. We are concerned that this may happen again—the Guardian Council has appointed hardliners to the election monitoring panel and reformists appear to be being discouraged from standing.

A key issue in the election is likely to be the economy, especially inflation, where estimates range from the official Iranian figures of around 12 per cent. to independent Iranian estimates of almost twice that. Within this, housing, foodstuffs and medicines have all been subject to above average price growth, making life harder for ordinary Iranians. Iran's increased isolation, and the possibility of further multilateral sanctions as a result of Iran's refusal to abide by its obligations on its nuclear programme, are also having an impact on international investment in and trade with Iran.

We are concerned by the continued clampdown on internal opposition, which has been going on for several months but appears to be intensifying in the run up to the election campaign—including, most recently, the arrests of three women affiliated with the Campaign For Equality, which is seeking to end legislation which discriminates against women. This is taking place against the backdrop of a wider deterioration in the human rights environment, including an increase in executions (close to 250 executions this year, compared to 177 for the whole of 2006), including multiple executions (eight reported cases of multiple executions since 22 July this year) and the execution of juveniles (three confirmed cases this year).

### Iran: Weapons

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect on Iranian weapons procurement of the proposed US arms package for states neighbouring or near to Iran. [167363]

**Dr. Howells:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not made an assessment of the impact of any US decisions on Iranian conventional weapons procurement.

### Iraq: Politics and Government

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Iraq. [168546]

**Dr. Howells:** It is vital that Iraq's political leaders take advantage of recent improvements in the security situation to make substantive progress in the political process. We continue to press Iraq's political leaders to move the reconciliation process forward through the completion of a thoroughgoing and broadly supported constitutional review and early passage of legislation key to this process, such as that on de-Ba'athification, provincial powers, elections, hydrocarbons and revenue sharing.

We welcome the agreements reached by Iraqi political leaders on some of these contentious issues in August and urge them to follow through on the commitments made.

### Japan: Whales

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Japanese counterpart on Japanese resumption of whaling. [167139]

**Meg Munn:** There have been no recent discussions between my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and Japanese Ministers on this issue.

The UK has consistently criticised Japan for her lethal whaling operations that are authorised under special permits (so called "scientific" whaling) and has urged Japan to end its scientific whaling activities.

The Government are deeply concerned at the latest Japanese proposals which include a plan to take 50 Humpback whales. In response, we are considering a high level diplomatic protest to the Japanese Government, following consultation with like-minded anti-whaling countries.

### Lebanon: Overseas Aid

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Lebanese Government on emergency aid and reconstruction relief to those displaced by fighting in the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp. [166985]

**Mr. Malik:** I have been asked to reply.

The UK Government engage with the Lebanese Government through the British embassy in Beirut. The embassy has regular discussions with the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee, in the Prime Minister's Office, which is responsible for co-ordinating relief efforts and also with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees, which oversee reconstruction relief. Her Majesty's ambassador to Lebanon visited Nah al-Bared camp on 6 November 2007.

DFID does not have a bilateral programme or presence in Lebanon. This is consistent with the UK's policy to increasingly support middle income countries through multinational organisations such as the World Bank and the European Commission. However, DFID is providing UNRWA with long term financial support (£100 million) up to 2011 to help them address problems facing Palestinian communities in Lebanon and elsewhere. We are also providing almost £1 million to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) for the clearance of unexploded ordnance in Lebanon.

### Lebanon: Sanctions

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on Lebanon, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United

Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166049]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

There are no EU financial sanctions imposed on Lebanon. EU Common Position 2005/888/Common Foreign and Security Policy, inter alia, places an asset freeze on those suspected of involvement in the murder of the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafiq Hariri. This Common Position implements UN Sanctions and to date no individuals have been targeted for the assets freeze by the UN. Consequently the UK has not frozen any assets.

### Liberia: Sanctions

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on Liberia, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166050]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

EU member states do not systematically share detailed information concerning the value of funds they have identified and frozen. However, they are legally obliged to freeze all funds and economic resources belonging to persons listed under the sanctions regime. It is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to these persons.

The reported balance of UK frozen funds in relation to UN and EU sanctions on Liberia amounts to £266,181.46 and 1,227.00 in euros.

### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Mr. Blair's speech to the Al Smith Memorial Dinner on 19 October 2007 reflects Quartet policy on Iran; and if he will make a statement. [162878]

**David Miliband:** The role of the Quartet is to support the Middle East Peace Process. It does not have a formal policy towards Iran. However, the Quartet has said that it supports the efforts of responsible regional states to help calm the situation, and will continue to promote a negotiated, comprehensive, just and lasting Middle East peace in line with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. It has urged all states in the region to work closely with Mr. Blair to this end and encouraged robust international support for his efforts.

### Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what preparations have been made for the non-proliferation treaty review conference talks in 2010, what role he expects the European Union will play in these talks; and if he will make a statement. [166063]

**David Miliband:** The United Kingdom strongly supports the European Union's Common Position of strengthening the three key pillars—non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear technology—of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT). EU member state played an important role in the positive outcome to this year's NPT Preparatory Committee. We will continue to work closely with European Union partners to achieve success in the new non-proliferation treaty (NPT) review cycle.

### Pakistan: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conclusions were reached at the 12 November Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on the situation in *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Zimbabwe; and what action was agreed in each case. [166144]

**David Miliband:** The Commonwealth Secretariat issued a statement following the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) meeting on 12 November. The full text is available at:

http://www.thecommonwealth.org/press/31555/172244/121107cmag.htm

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, represented the UK at the meeting.

Zimbabwe is no longer in the Commonwealth, and was therefore not discussed.

### Pakistan: Terrorism

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of UK financial assistance to Pakistan is for counter-terrorism purposes; and if he will make a statement. [166125]

**David Miliband:** I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Mr. Moore) on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 743-44W and the reply my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development gave to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 533-34W. The total planned expenditure on UK co-operation with Pakistan in 2007-08 is £111.7 million of which £2.3 million (2 per cent.) is for counter- terrorism programmes funded through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Opportunities Fund.

### Redundancy Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1584W, on redundancy pay, how much was spent by his Department on voluntary redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [166285]

**Meg Munn:** Between November 2006 and October 2007 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent £1,749,531 on voluntary redundancy payments.

These departures formed part of a restructuring programme to enable FCO Services, an Executive Agency of the FCO, to operate successfully as a Trading Fund from April 2008.

**Somalia: Politics and Government**

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the situation in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [166019]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government monitor the situation in Somalia very closely and raises issues with international interlocutors on a regular basis. Most recently my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, discussed Somalia with the Ethiopian Foreign Minister during their meeting on 13 November 2007.

The Government are very concerned by the current situation in Somalia. We are working hard with our international partners, through the EU, the UN and the International Contact Group, to help Somalia address its very difficult circumstances. The three strands of our policy cover political, security and humanitarian issues. By pursuing each of these areas in parallel, we hope to help Somalia leave violent conflict behind and develop, in time, to its full potential.

**Spain: Repatriation**

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what regulations apply to the *(a)* return and *(b)* treatment of the bodies of deceased UK citizens from Spain. [167335]

**Meg Munn:** The transport and treatment of bodies within Spain and authority for their transfer out of the country is a matter for the Spanish regional health authorities.

**Sudan: Frontiers**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Sudan on its rejection of the findings of the Abyei Boundary Commission report. [166364]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not raised the Abyei Boundary Commission report with the Government of Sudan. However, the Abyei boundary dispute is a key issue for continued progress on implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development and my noble Friend the Minister of State for Africa, Asia and the UN Lord Malloch-Brown, have all raised CPA implementation including Abyei, in their contacts with the Government of Sudan.

**Sudan: Peace Negotiations**

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on establishing peace in Darfur. [166898]

**Meg Munn:** The start of new political talks in Libya on 27 October, and the announcement of a cessation of hostilities by the Government of Sudan, were welcome steps towards ending the conflict in Darfur. We support the African Union (AU) and UN current efforts to encourage the rebel movements to agree a common platform and for all groups to take part in formal negotiations. Only a political process can provide a sustainable solution to the Darfur conflict.

But the people of Darfur continue to suffer violence. We are pressing for the prompt and effective deployment of the UN-AU hybrid force in Darfur, as mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1769, to restore security on the ground. We have agreed with other donors to set up the Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund, to support recovery activities at community level where leaders deliver security on the ground and allow foil humanitarian access.

The situation in Darfur remains complex. We are working with international partners to keep the focus on these issues.

**Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have pledged troops to the UNAMID peacekeeping operation in Darfur; and how many troops each has pledged. [164101]

**David Miliband:** The African Union (AU)-UN hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID), mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1769 of 31 July 2007, will consist of approximately 19,500 troops and a 6,500-strong civilian police component. The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has the task of generating the force in consultation with the AU. This particular force generation is complex and requires multilateral negotiations with potential contributing countries. The UN Secretary-General, in his report on UNAMID deployment of 5 November 2007, noted that the DPKO has received contributions from a number of countries to cover most of the military capabilities required for UNAMID, but critical shortfalls on helicopters and ground transport remain. The DPKO is now conducting pre-deployment assessments before confirming final troop contributions. We are pressing the DPKO, the AU and the Government of Sudan for the prompt and effective deployment of the UNAMID force.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the work of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission tasked with monitoring and enforcing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan. [166361]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) has made progress as a forum for dialogue on issues of contention between the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). It published on 3 November the Factual Report on the Status of the CPA Implementation and has opened offices in both Khartoum and Juba. The AEC's effectiveness is ultimately dependent on the National Congress Party and Sudan

People's Liberation Movement's willingness to co-operate. The recent political impasse within the Government of National Unity over delays in implementing the CPA demonstrates their difficulties in reaching consensus on key CPA issues.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial support, *(b)* personnel and *(c)* equipment his Department has provided to the Assessment and Evaluation Commission tasked with monitoring and enforcing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan. [166362]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** At present, we do not provide financial support or equipment to the Assessment and Evaluation Committee (AEC)—most support is provided by the US and Norway. However, representatives from our embassy in Khartoum attend AEC plenary meetings, and currently chair the AEC's security sub-committee.

**Syria: Sanctions**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on Syria, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166075]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

There are no EU financial sanctions imposed on Syria. EU Common Position 2005/888/Common Foreign and Security Policy, inter alia, places an asset freeze on those suspected of involvement in the murder of the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafiq Hariri. This Common Position implements UN Sanctions and to date no individuals have been targeted for the assets freeze by the UN. Consequently the UK has not frozen any assets.

**Terrorism: East Africa**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the threat posed to the UK by terrorist factions in East Africa, with particular reference to Somalia. [164096]

**David Miliband:** Al-Qaeda and its local affiliates have a long history of terrorist activity in East Africa, from the Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam bombings of 1998 through to more recent activity in Somalia. Al-Qaeda has exploited the absence of an effective government in Somalia to use the country as a base for both terrorist training and planning. This threat is mainly focused on the region, but is sometimes directed against the UK. The UK is home to a small number of extremists of East African origin, as the failed 21 July 2005 attacks in London demonstrated.

The UK's policy is to return peace, stability and governance to Somalia. We, with our international partners, are supporting the Transitional Federal Institutions, established by the Transitional Federal Charter. This envisages elections at the end of the transitional period in order to establish a democratically elected government in Somalia. Resolving the instability and lack of governance in Somalia through this mechanism will help counter the terrorist threat in the country.

**Terrorism: Sanctions**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on designated terrorist groups, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166051]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

EU member states do not systematically share detailed information concerning the value of funds they have identified and frozen. However, they are legally obliged to freeze all funds and economic resources belonging to persons and entities listed under the sanctions regime. It is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to these persons and entities.

The reported balance of UK frozen funds in relation to UN and EU terrorist sanctions amounts to £457,768.23 and US$58,123.07.

**Uganda: Human Rights**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the threat by Uganda State House militia Commander Major Kakooza Mutale to kill anyone who opposes President Museveni; and if he will make a statement. [165893]

**David Miliband:** I have received no reports of threats by any member of the Uganda State House militia against opponents of President Museveni. Our high commission in Kampala closely monitors the internal political situation in Uganda and regularly presses the Ugandan Government to respect the rights of the Opposition.

Ministers have also raised governance issues with the Ugandan Government, notably during Foreign Minister Kutesa's visit to the UK in September.

**Western Sahara: Asylum**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plans to take in response to the human rights situation of Western Saharawi refugees in the Tindouf camps and the actions of the Moroccan Government. [167406]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK is concerned about the welfare of the people of Western Sahara. We have set out our concerns about human rights and the humanitarian situation in the region in the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office's 2006 Annual Human Rights Report, which is available at:

www.fco.gov.uk.

We have raised human rights issues with Morocco. We continue to support ongoing confidence building measures for the region, such as establishing a regular telephone and mail service between Tindouf and the territory, and family visits between the territory and the camps.

The UK remains concerned that the issue of the status of Western Sahara remains unresolved, with consequent problems for the people of the region. The UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1783 on 31 October, which renewed the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara until 30 April 2008. The resolution also calls upon the parties to continue negotiations under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith. The UK fully supports these negotiations, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to support a census to establish the number of Western Saharawi refugees. [167407]

**Dr. Howells:** It remains part of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara's (MINURSO) mandate to identify and register qualified voters to take part in any referendum. The UK is concerned that the issue of the status of Western Sahara remains unresolved, with consequent problems for the people of the region. The UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1783 on 31 October, which renewed the mandate of MINURSO until 30 April 2008.

The resolution also calls upon the parties to continue negotiations under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith. It is the UK's policy to fully support these negotiations, and the work of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, Peter van Walsum, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

The UK has provided over £200,000 to the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Organisation to provide food aid to Western Saharan refugees currently living in refugee camps.

### Zimbabwe: Banks

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the lending activities of British banks in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [165584]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The activities of banks incorporated in Britain and operating in Zimbabwe are subject to EU regulations. We take very seriously any allegation of a breach of article 6 of Regulation 314/2004 and will always investigate. We are determined to see that EU sanctions are properly enforced.

### Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what options he is considering for assistance to Zimbabwe in the event of a change of Government in that country. [167183]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said that Britain will contribute its share to supporting recovery in Zimbabwe but only when significant policy and administrative reforms are implemented within Zimbabwe. We are working with key partners in the international donor community and multilateral institutions to develop a co-ordinated approach to that assistance. Our focus would include support for stabilising the economy and moving towards sustainable recovery.

## HEALTH

### 18 Weeks Programme

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the National Implementation Director of his Department's 18 weeks programme has spent on *(a)* travel and *(b)* other expenses in the last 12 months. [165698]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table sets out the amount spent on travel and other expenses by the National Implementation Director for 18 weeks in the 12 months to October 2007.

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Travel | 9,156 |
| Other expenses | 5,082 |
| Total | 14,238 |

The National Implementation Director for 18 Weeks has spoken at or participated in 139 national, regional and local events over this period.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff work for the National Implementation Director of his Department's 18 weeks programme, broken down by pay band. [165697]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Three people report directly to the National Implementation Director. These are Head of Service Transformation, Orthopaedics Programme Manager and a personal assistant.

Their Agenda for Change paybands are band 8D, band 8D and band 6 respectively.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when changes have been made to the methods of measurement of his Department's target that patients should wait no more than 18 weeks for treatment since the target was announced; and what the *(a)* date of and *(b)* reason for the change was in each case. [165692]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** No changes have been made to the methods of measurement of the target that by December 2008, no-one will have to wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred by their general practitioner for hospital treatment.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what percentage of cases his Department's target that patients should wait no more than 18 weeks for treatment will apply; and if he will make a statement. [165694]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** An operational tolerance is needed to account for when it would be clinically inappropriate to treat patients or where patients choose to wait longer than 18 weeks from referral.

The Department is currently considering the tolerance level needed to reflect this. The operational tolerance will be confirmed in the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09.

Latest figures show that seven out of 10 patients are already being treated in 18 weeks or less. The NHS is making good progress towards effectively ending waiting next year.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations his Department has received expressing concern about meeting the 18 week waiting time target. [166371]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department receives a wide range of written and other representations on issues relating to 18 weeks. Information on the number of representations specifically expressing concern about meeting the target could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Abortion

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for the statement made by the Minister for Public Health to the Science and Technology Committee on 24 October that the Abortion Act 1967 did not require further amendment at the present time; whom she consulted before making this statement; what recent representations he has received on this statement from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Members of the House of Lords and *(c)* members of the public; and if he will make a statement. [165745]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Departmental officials working in this area constantly review scientific evidence which might affect the science that underpins the Abortion Act 1967, as amended. As part of this ongoing work officials reviewed all of the evidence submitted to the Science and Technology Committee inquiry into scientific developments relating to the Abortion Act 1967 and agreed with the consensus of opinion which was that there was no new scientific evidence that warranted a change to the Act.

The Royal Colleges and Professional Bodies, including the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the British Medical Association, which the Department and the Government look to for advice submitted evidence to the Committee outlining their views, therefore no wider consultation was necessary.

Since 24 October we have received one representation in the form of an oral parliamentary question from hon. Members; no direct representations from the House of Lords and 84 letters on abortion issues in general from members of the public.

## Accident and Emergency Departments

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 6 April 2005, *Official Report*, column 1538W, on accident and emergency departments, what recent assessment he has made of the trend in attendances at type one accident and emergency departments; and what effect *(a)* better reporting, *(b)* increased satisfaction with accident and emergency services and *(c)* any other factors have on this trend. [166320]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Data show that there were 13.6 million attendances in 2006-07 at type 1 accident and emergency departments, a 0.4 per cent. increase since 2005-06.

The assessment referred to in the previous answer has not been repeated.

## Alcoholic Drinks: Labelling

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with other European Union member states on alcohol warning labels; and if he will make a statement. [166022]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Committee on National Policy and Action is part of the implementation structure for the European Union Alcohol Strategy. It met in Luxembourg on 5 November.

The Committee heard a presentation by the representative of Finland about its recent notification to the Commission stating an intention to legislate for a warning label in both Finnish and Swedish for alcohol products marketed in Finland.

The United Kingdom representative described the voluntary agreement made with the UK alcohol industry in May 2007 for the inclusion of information on labels relating to alcohol unit content and guidelines on sensible daily consumption, along with advice on alcohol and pregnancy; and argued for an approach which provides information to consumers on alcohol unit content and sensible daily consumption, rather than generalised warnings about alcohol.

## Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many alcohol-attributable hospital admissions there were *(a)* in each London borough and *(b)* in the Greater London area (i) in each of the last four financial years and (ii) in 2007-08; [166511]

(2) how many alcohol-attributable *(a)* routine hospital admissions and *(b)* accident and emergency admissions there were (i) in each London borough and (ii) in the Greater London area in (A) each of the last four financial years and (B) 2007-08. [166512]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested has been placed in the Library. Data for 2007-08 are not yet available.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on public health of low pricing of bulk purchase alcohol in supermarkets. [168114]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department is commissioning an independent review of the evidence on the relationship between alcohol price, promotion and harm. Among other things, this will consider the evidence on the effects of low pricing of alcohol and the promotion of this by supermarkets.

### Atkinson Morley Hospital

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total expenditure incurred by NHS Estates was in the disposal of the Atkinson Morley hospital. [166719]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This property was owned by St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust, and was sold by the Trust, not NHS Estates. London Strategic Health Authority has advised that the total expenditure incurred through the sale of the Atkinson Morley hospital was £1.5 million.

### Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust: Finance

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on the financial position of Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust of the private finance initiative agreement used to finance the development of Queen's Hospital, Romford. [167284]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Full Business Case (FBC) for Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust's private finance initiative (PFI) scheme was approved by the Department and HM Treasury in 2003. To be approved, an FBC must demonstrate that the private finance option is affordable to the local health economy (i.e. national health service trusts and primary care trusts as commissioners) and value for money when compared with the public capital funded alternative.

PFI unitary payments are just one component of an NHS trust's expenditure.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial position of Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust is. [167285]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust is forecasting a year end deficit of £14.3 million at quarter 1 2007-08.

As a result of the Department introducing the new loans system in 2006-07, there are 17 national health service trusts, where the financial challenges are such that the Department either could not give a loan because the trusts could not afford to meet the repayments, or where a loan was agreed, but the amount is very large and could only be repaid over a very extended time scale.

Departmental officials have worked in partnership with strategic health authorities (SHAs) on a review process to identify long term solutions for the 17 NHS trusts, Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust being one of them. The results of this recently completed review process are now being discussed with the SHAs and solutions are being prepared in the context of the Operating Framework for 2008-09.

### Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust: Nurses

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many positions exist for nurses in Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust. [167288]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not held in the format requested.

There were 28 vacancies which had been advertised for three months or more for qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust region as at 31 March 2007. This equates to a vacancy of 1.5 per cent.

### Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust: Public Appointments

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in appointing a chief executive for Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust. [167437]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** John Goulston has been acting as Interim Chief Executive of Barking, Havering and Redbridge hospitals NHS trust since 15 October 2007. We are informed that his six month contract contains the option to extend his stay to nine months, and that the Chief Executive post will be advertised within this time period.

### Biologics

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each strategic health authority spent on biologics in each of the last three years. [167607]

**Dawn Primarolo:** To provide the information requested would involve a bespoke data collection and analysis exercise that could be carried out only at disproportionate cost, as there are over 1,400 preparations, which can be considered to be 'biologics'.

### Broomfield Hospital: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Patient Environment Action Team scores for cleanliness were in the Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford in each year since 1997. [166243]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows the national health service's Patient Environment Action Team assessments for levels of cleanliness at Broomfield Hospital from 2001.

| | *Levels of cleanliness* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | Amber |
| 2002 | Amber |
| 2003 | Green |
| 2004 | Acceptable |
| 2005 | Good |
| 2006 | Good |
| 2007 | Acceptable |

*Notes:*
1. From 2001-03 the scale was Green, Amber, Red—Green = good, amber = acceptable.
2. From 2004 onwards the scale changed to a 5-point one of Excellent, Good, Acceptable, Poor, Unacceptable.
3. Since 2005, assessments have been undertaken by self-assessment with a percentage independently validated.

### Care Homes: Nutrition

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the implementation of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's guidance on clinical triggers: The management of nutritional care; [166629]

(2) what progress the Commission for Social Care Inspection has made in developing suitable training for inspectors of standards of nutritional care. [166630]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it produced the guidance for inspectors in June 2006. It is also available to service providers on the CSCI professionals website at:

www.csci.org.uk/professional/default.aspx?page=7346&key.

The guidance was developed in collaboration with a dietician. It reflects best practice as advised by nutritional groups and includes the need for services to carry out nutritional screening on admission and on a periodic basis for those people at risk of malnutrition.

CSCI inspects providers against national minimum standards (NMS), published by the Secretary of State under section 23(1) of the Care Standards Act 2000. These include:

> Standard 8—Healthcare, of which Standard 8.9 relates to nutritional care—"nutritional screening is undertaken on admission and subsequently on a periodic basis, a record maintained of nutrition, including weight gain or loss, and appropriate action taken."
>
> Standard 15—Meals and Mealtimes, includes a range of guidance to ensure that services provide people with a wholesome appealing balanced diet, at a time and place to suit the individual and that assistance when eating is offered as required.

The "State of Social Care" report, published by CSCI in December 2006, indicates the level of achievement of the NMS by services for adults and older people since 2002-03 up to 2005-06. Copies of the report are available in the Library. Levels of achievement were given as percentages of services for younger adults and older people meeting or exceeding individual standards. These percentages are shown in the table, together with the most recent figures for the 2006-07 inspection year.

| | *Healthcare* | *Percentage Meals and mealtimes* |
|---|---|---|
| *Care homes for younger adults* | | |
| 2002-03 | 86 | 81 |
| 2003-04 | 89 | 86 |
| 2004-05 | 89 | 88 |
| 2005-06 | 88 | 90 |
| 2006-07 | 88 | 90 |
| *Care homes for older people* | | |
| 2002-03 | 73 | 78 |
| 2003-04 | 78 | 82 |
| 2004-05 | 78 | 84 |
| 2005-06 | 78 | 85 |
| 2006-07 | 79 | 86 |

CSCI participated as a stakeholder, in collaboration with the Department of Health, in the development of the Nutrition Action Plan. As a stakeholder, CSCI has made a commitment that it will use the Annual Quality Assurance Assessment (AQAA) to ask all providers to confirm that they carry out nutritional screening for people at risk of malnutrition. Where evidence raises concern about nutrition and malnutrition, CSCI will ensure that this is fully explored during the next inspection of the service and will track through the AQAA, the assessment of individual person centred plans to make sure that where required, nutritional screening has taken place.

CSCI will be meeting with Skills for Care on 27 November 2007 to discuss the competences required by inspectors on nutritional care. The outputs from this work will inform training requirements, which will be delivered to inspectors within CSCI's overall training programme.

### Care Homes: Standards

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the cost of implementation of the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by major cost area. [165823]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The estimated overall cost to the national health service is £219 million in the first full year of implementation. This includes an allowance for primary care trusts to continue to pay the high band nursing care contribution for all those people receiving it, when the framework was implemented on 1 October 2007.

### Chlamydia: Screening

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department has given to the merits of developing a tariff for chlamydia screening in the system of payment by results, as recommended on page three of the Health Protection Agency's Annual Report of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme for 2006-07. [166441]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department of Health consulted on how the payment by results system impacts on access to sexual health services as part of the *Options for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008-09—2010-11* consultation document published on 15 March 2007.

There were a number of responses from stakeholders with an interest in sexual health and we will be considering their views in establishing our development priorities for sexual health payment by results. We will also take into account newly emerging recommendations such as that by the Health Protection Agency.

### Cocoa: Labelling

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to regulate labelling to identify the country of origin on products containing cocoa. [165928]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Origin labelling rules are harmonised at European Union level and, while the

European Commission is currently reviewing legislation in this area, neither the Commission nor the United Kingdom has plans to introduce mandatory origin labelling for products containing cocoa.

Meanwhile, there is nothing to stop manufacturers from declaring this on a voluntary basis—provided it is accurate and not misleading.

### Cost Benefit Analysis

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 458W, on cost benefit analysis, if he will make available the results of the evaluation of demonstration sites; [164596]

(2) with reference to the answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 459W, on cost benefit analysis, when the results referred to in the answer were published; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the results. [164601]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The evaluation report of the demonstration sites was published on 23 October. A separate report, written by the subgroups overseeing the projects in six speciality areas, was published on the same day.

Both reports are available online. The evaluation report is available at:

www.npcrdc.ac.uk/Evaluation_of_Closer_to_Home_Demonstration_Sites.htm.

The speciality subgroup report is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_079728

Copies of both publications have been placed in the Library.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list all services purchased from consultants in 2006-07. [167836]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information on all the services purchased from consultants in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such information for the Department.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department expects to reply to the letter of 28 February 2007 from the hon. Member for Southend West to Lord Hunt of Kings Heath enclosing an e-mail from Autumn Fredericks; what the reason for the time taken to reply is; and if he will make a statement. [165746]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A reply was issued on 12 June 2007.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what written guidance on the Comprehensive Spending Review was *(a)* sent in 2007 by HM Treasury to his Department and *(b)* has been circulated internally within his Department. [162825]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As is normal in the run-up to a spending review, HM Treasury provided numerous pieces of guidance to all Departments, including the Department of Health, on preparations and evidence for the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

### Departmental Manpower

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162434]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162435]

(3) when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162436]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 596W.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what entertainment or hospitality members of the Department's management board have received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164753]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to publish programme budgeting data for 2006-07 on his Department's website. [166426]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** England level programme budgeting expenditure data were published as part of the Department's resource accounts on 11 October 2007. Primary care trust level data were published on the Department of Health's website on 29 October 2007, and are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/programmebudgeting

### Dermatology: Private Sector

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to private healthcare providers for dermatological services in 2006-07. [166496]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information is available on the total amount the Department and the national health

service spend on contracts with independent sector treatment centres and other private sector bodies but this is not broken down in a way that allows spend on dermatological services to be determined.

### Diabetes

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government has allocated to research into diabetes since 1997. [167899]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. The NHS has reported spending from this funding in support of diabetes as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 13.9 |
| 2002-03 | 17.5 |
| 2003-04 | 18.2 |
| 2004-05 | 19.3 |
| 2005-06 | 21.4 |
| 2006-07 | 24.8 |

These data were not collected centrally prior to 2001.

The Department now funds NHS research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The Institute's Diabetes Research Network, one of six topic specific networks, brings together NHS staff and resources to support randomised controlled trials and other well-designed studies for commercial and non-commercial sponsors. The NIHR is investing £20 million over five years in the network.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

MRC expenditure on research concerned with diabetes since 1999 has been:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 6.5 |
| 2000-01 | 8.6 |
| 2001-02 | 9.8 |
| 2002-03 | 11.4 |
| 2003-04 | 11.4 |
| 2004-05 | 9.8 |
| 2005-06 | 13.9 |

Earlier comparable figures are not available.

### Eastbourne Hospital: Hip Replacements

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hip replacement operations were performed on patients over 65 at the Eastbourne district general hospital in each year since 1997. [165399]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, the information in the table shows data for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 for East Sussex hospital NHS trust, which Eastbourne district general hospital is a part of. Data prior to 2002-03 are not available in readily accessible form.

*Count of finished consultant episodes with a hip replacement operation performed on patients aged 65 years and over at East Sussex hospital national health service trust 2002-03 to 2005-06*

| | *NHS hospitals England* |
|---|---|
| | *Finished consultant episodes* |
| 2005-06 | 940 |
| 2004-05 | 803 |
| 2003-04 | 846 |
| 2002-03 | 786 |

*Notes:*

1. Codes used for hip replacement operations were: total prosthetic replacement of hip joint (W37—W39) and prosthetic replacement of head of femur (W46—W48).
2. Finished consultant episode (FCE)

An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

3. Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

4. Finished consultant episode (FCE) with an operation

A count of FCEs with an operation is the number of finished consultant episodes where the procedures were mentioned in any of the 12 (four prior to 2002-03) operative procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if a procedure is mentioned in more than one operative procedure field of the record. Please note that more procedures are carried out than finished consultant episodes with an operation. For example, patients undergoing a cataract operation would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single finished consultant episode.

*Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care

### General Practitioners

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs are currently registered as having a special interest, broken down by specialty. [166503]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are currently more than 1,700 general practitioners with a special interest. Information to provide a breakdown by specialty is not available centrally.

### General Practitioners: East Sussex

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average annual earnings for general practitioners in the East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust were in each year since 1997. [165338]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on the average annual earnings for general practitioners in East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust is not held centrally.

### General Practitioners: Location

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to encourage the location of GP practices on high streets. [164761]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is for primary care trusts to commission primary medical care services from general practitioners (GPs) and other providers that best meet

local needs. Some of these services may be GP led health centres situated on high streets because of their convenient location and good transport links.

### General Practitioners: Older Workers

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practising general practitioners are over *(a)* 80, *(b)* 75, *(c)* 70 and *(d)* 65 years of age; and what percentage of practising general practitioners each figure represents. [165082]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is shown in the following table.

*General practitioners (GPs) by age band as at September 2006*

| | *Headcount* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| All GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) | 33,091 | 100.0 |
| *of which:* | | |
| Over 80 | 7 | 0.0 |
| Over 75 | 23 | 0.1 |
| Over 70 | 143 | 0.4 |
| Over 65 | 738 | 2.2 |

*Note:*
General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP Providers and GP Others.
*Source:*
The Information Centre for Health and Social Care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

### Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust was disconnected from the combined emergency services STORM telephone system in the joint control room in Devizes; and what system has replaced it. [166513]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not hold this information centrally. It is a matter for the ambulance trust to decide locally what systems they use or discontinue using within their control rooms, and this extends to shared control rooms with other emergency services.

### Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust: Manpower

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual number of paramedics is in the Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust. [166517]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not set specific requirements for numbers of paramedics. Work force planning is a matter for individual trusts to undertake, working with their commissioners and strategic health authorities. Plans need to be, and are, regularly reviewed as circumstances change.

Data are available for ambulance staff breakdown, as at September 2006, through the Information Centre for health and social care 2006 Non-Medical Workforce Census. There were 375 ambulance paramedics up until 30 September 2006, when the last work force census was taken.

### Health Services: Equality

**Dr. Stoate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve the compliance of primary care trusts with the public sector gender duties; and what support the Government will provide to NHS organisations to help them reduce gender inequalities in health outcomes. [163934]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department is committed to tackling gender inequalities within the health and social care sector by recognising the specific health needs of men and women. There has been increased awareness amongst healthcare professionals of the correlation between gender and health and its impact on access, quality of health care and medical treatment for men and women. The Department's commitment to create a patient-centred service which extends choice and is responsive to all patients and users, especially with regards to the gender perspective will ensure that any gender differences in treatment and access are eliminated.

The Department commissioned the Men's Health Forum to work with five primary care trusts (PCTs) to develop a tool to assist PCTs in providing gender sensitive services. PCTs will be able to identify where changes can be made and how to approach the implementation of the gender duty. The results of this project—the "Gender Equity Audit" report was launched on 6 November 2006 at the Men's Health Forum Conference—Putting Gender on the NHS Agenda: Implementing the Gender Equality Duty in the NHS.

Research is currently being undertaken by the Department, on the different way men and women access health services and what difference this has on health outcomes. It is intended that the outcomes of this research will provide the evidence base to identify actions to take in tackling gender health inequalities. The research will target a range of national health service organisations, including PCTs, and will take account of overlapping inequality issues such as age, ethnicity, sexual orientation.

The Department has produced and disseminated guidance for the NHS by developing "Creating a Gender Equality Scheme: A practical guide for the NHS" and "10 Steps to Developing Your Single Equality Schemes" web guidance. A series of regional and national events recently disseminated guidance on developing Single Equality Schemes that incorporate the requirements of the gender equality duty. A further series of local events is currently under consideration.

The Department's Equality and Human Rights Group has established the Gender Equality Advisory Group to bring together key stakeholders in developing and prioritising gender actions which will inform the prioritisation of departmental policy and initiatives to provide ongoing support for the NHS.

### Health Services: EU Countries

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if, prior to ratification of any European Reform Treaty, the Government will put forward and insist upon amendments designed to ensure that citizens of the United Kingdom domiciled in *(a)* France and *(b)* any member state of the European Union shall be entitled to the provisions for healthcare available to the domestic nationals of that country. [166005]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is for each individual state to determine who and what is covered for health care.

### Health Services: Newcastle upon Tyne

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what projections for the population of the City of Newcastle in 2006-07 and 2007-08 were used in allocating resources for health services; how those projections were calculated; and what methodology will be used to project the population of the city for 2008-09. [167213]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) used 2003 based Office for National Statistics (ONS) sub-national population projections for 2006 and 2007 respectively, adjusted for cross boundary flows of patients between PCTs using 2004 general practitioner practice lists. A detailed explanation of the methodology is contained in "Resource Allocation: Weighted Capitation Formula (Fifth Edition)" which is available in the Library and also at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Financeandplanning/Allocations/DH_076396.

The population projections used for allocations to Newcastle PCT are shown in the following table.

| *Allocation year* | *Population* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 258,859 |
| 2007-08 | 258,398 |

A one-year PCT revenue allocation has been announced for 2008-09. The funding formula will be frozen in 2008-09, this means that no data or formula changes, including population, will be implemented for that year. All PCTs will receive a flat-rate increase on their 2007-08 revenue allocation.

### Health Services: Romford

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to establish a walk-in medical centre in Romford. [167441]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department no longer has responsibility for planning walk-in centres. It is for the local national health service organisations to plan and develop services for their local communities.

### Hospices: Children

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding each primary care trust has provided to children's hospices in each of the last five years. [163711]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** That information is not collected centrally.

### Hospital Beds: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to increase the number of hospital beds in London since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [166232]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is for the local national health service to provide appropriate levels of care to their local communities.

### Hospital Beds: Intensive Care

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* high dependency and *(b)* intensive care beds there were in each Government region in each year since 1995; and if he will make a statement. [166233]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on the number of high dependency beds was not collected before March 1999.

The bi-annual adult critical care provision census collects the number of high dependency and adult intensive care beds started in March 1999 with the latest census in July 2007. Tables have been placed in the Library which give the number of critical care beds broken down by the relevant national health service regional structure.

The KH03 collects the total number of days for all types of intensive care beds,(including paediatric and neonatal). Those data are available back to 1995. This information has also been provided.

### Hospitals: Hotels

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by each hospital trust on hotel accommodation for families of patients in *(a)* their own trust area and *(b)* other trust areas in the last year for which such information is available. [166671]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally. The arrangement and responsibility for any such provision is a local matter.

### Influenza

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 1170W, on influenza, whether the public engagement programme has commenced; what workstreams are anticipated as part of that programme; whether it will seek to understand public attitudes with respect to the prioritisation of *(a)* intensive care beds, *(b)* vaccines and *(c)* antivirals; whether he intends to undertake the programme prior to publication of the national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [166323]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The contract for the public engagement programme has been awarded. Public workshops are planned for early 2008.

The aim of the project is to engage with the public to understand how they might think and react in the event of an influenza pandemic; including seeking their views on prioritisation of intensive care beds, vaccines and antivirals. This will enable us to refine the communications strategy that supports the "National Framework for Responding to an Influenza Pandemic", which has just been published.

### Influenza: Vaccination

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the level of take up of influenza vaccine by pensioners over 65 years old in West Chelmsford constituency in each year since 1997. [166244]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Flu vaccine uptake data were collected for the first time on those aged 65 and over from 2000-01. Data are collected by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority. Data are not collected by constituency. Due to geographical changes West Chelmsford fell within North Essex PCT, Essex Health Authority (HA), and Chelmsford PCT between 2000-01 to 2006-07.

The percentage uptake of those aged 65 and over who received a flu vaccine in North Essex in 2000-01 and 2001-02, Essex HA in 2002-03, Chelmsford PCT 2003-04 to 2005-06 and North Essex in 2006-07 is available in the Library.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to point (9) in his letter to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire of 2 October 2007, reference PO00000234668, whether any foreign Governments have arranged to purchase vaccine for use in the event of an influenza pandemic from manufacturers in the UK. [166459]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We do not have any information on this as it is a commercial decision between United Kingdom manufacturers and foreign Governments.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the take-up of influenza vaccinations by pensioners over 65 years old in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [167775]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data are not collected by constituency. For data which are available, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1035W.

Data are not available by county.

Influenza vaccine uptake data for those over 65 years of age were collected for the first time from 2000. The uptake of influenza vaccination in those over 65 years of age in England from 2000 is shown in the following table:

| | *Uptake in those aged 65 years and over (%)* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 65.3 |
| 2001-02 | 67.7 |
| 2002-03 | 68.5 |
| 2003-04 | 71.0 |
| 2004-05 | 71.5 |
| 2005-06 | 75.3 |
| 2006-07 | 74.0 |

## Intensive Care

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many intensive care beds were available on average in each year since 1997; and what the average occupancy rates were. [166082]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The requested information is in the following table.

*Average daily available, occupied, and occupancy rate of intensive care beds for England between1996-97 and 2006-07*

| *Year* | *Ward type* | *Intensive care beds available* | *Intensive care beds occupied* | *Occupancy rate (occupied/ available x100 per cent.) of intensive care beds* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | Neonates | 1,524 | 1,075 | 70.54 |
| | Paediatric | 233 | 174 | 74.68 |
| | Wholly or mainly adult | 2,428 | 1,747 | 71.95 |
| | Total (neonates + paediatric + adult) | 4,185 | 2,996 | 71.59 |
| 1997-98 | Neonates | 1,530 | 1,052 | 68.76 |
| | Paediatric | 265 | 201 | 75.85 |
| | Wholly or mainly adult | 2,417 | 1,727 | 71.45 |
| | Total (neonates + paediatric + adult) | 4,212 | 2,980 | 70.75 |
| 1998-99 | Neonates | 1,525 | 1,079 | 70.75 |
| | Paediatric | 273 | 194 | 71.06 |
| | Wholly or mainly adult | 2,438 | 1,829 | 75.02 |
| | Total (neonates + paediatric + adult) | 4,236 | 3,102 | 73.23 |
| 1999-2000 | Neonates | 1,534 | 1,101 | 71.77 |
| | Paediatric | 282 | 195 | 69.15 |
| | Wholly or mainly adult | 2,531 | 1,934 | 76.41 |
| | Total (neonates + paediatric + adult) | 4,347 | 3,230 | 74.30 |
| 2000-01 | Neonates | 1,517 | 1,092 | 71.98 |
| | Paediatric | 290 | 208 | 71.72 |
| | Wholly or mainly adult | 2,700 | 2,083 | 77.15 |
| | Total (neonates + paediatric + adult) | 4,507 | 3,383 | 75.06 |

*Average daily available, occupied, and occupancy rate of intensive care beds for England between1996-97 and 2006-07*

| Year | Ward type | Intensive care beds available | Intensive care beds occupied | Occupancy rate (occupied/available x100 per cent.) of intensive care beds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | Neonates | 1,543 | 1,088 | 70.51 |
| | Paediatric | 303 | 205 | 67.66 |
| | Wholly or mainly adult | 3,093 | 2,393 | 77.37 |
| | Total (neonates + paediatric + adult) | 4,939 | 3,686 | 74.63 |
| 2002-03 | Neonates | 1,551 | 1,081 | 69.70 |
| | Paediatric | 254 | 165 | 64.96 |
| | Wholly or mainly adult | 3,216 | 2,511 | 78.08 |
| | Total (neonates + paediatric + adult) | 5,021 | 3,757 | 74.83 |
| 2003-04 | Neonates | 1,491 | 1,084 | 72.70 |
| | Paediatric | 239 | 164 | 68.62 |
| | Wholly or mainly adult | 3,283 | 2,635 | 80.26 |
| | Total (neonates + paediatric + adult) | 5,013 | 3,883 | 77.46 |
| 2004-05 | Neonates | 1,523 | 1,120 | 73.54 |
| | Paediatric | 283 | 201 | 71.02 |
| | Wholly or mainly adult | 3,417 | 2,763 | 80.86 |
| | Total (neonates + paediatric + adult) | 5,223 | 4,084 | 78.19 |
| 2005-06 | Neonates | 1,688 | 1,196 | 70.85 |
| | Paediatric | 321 | 236 | 73.52 |
| | Wholly or mainly adult | 3,454 | 2,734 | 79.15 |
| | Total (neonates + paediatric + adult) | 5,463 | 4,166 | 76.26 |
| 2006-07 | Neonates | 1,658 | 1,233 | 74.37 |
| | Paediatric | 335 | 246 | 73.43 |
| | Wholly or mainly adult | 3,622 | 2,918 | 80.56 |
| | Total (neonates + paediatric + adult) | 5,615 | 4,397 | 78.31 |

*Source:*
Department of Health form kh03

## Medical Services: Prisoners

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of prisoners admitted to hospital for treatment in the last year; and how many of these were placed in single rooms in hospital. [165705]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is not held centrally.

A 2005-06 audit of health care escorts and bedwatches activity in all prison establishments in England and Wales identified the following activity[1]:

[1] Source:

A Twelve Month Study of Prison Healthcare Escorts and Bedwatches, Department of Health, 2006.

*Escorts and Bedwatches Activity (18 April 2005 to 21 April 2006)*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Escorts and unaccompanied hospital visits | 45,324 |
| Bedwatches | 2,533 |
| Total episodes | 47,857 |

A copy of the full report has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_062794

## Medical Treatments: Procurement

**Mr. Havard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statutory obligations there are upon the Centre of Evidence-based Purchasing to consider the outcomes of product assessments by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in its evaluations of medical devices. [166113]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are no statutory obligations upon the Centre of Evidence-based Purchasing (CEP) to consider the outcomes of product assessments by

the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in its evaluations of medical devices.

However, the Centre of Evidence-based Purchasing works closely with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to ensure that respective work-programmes complement one another and build on each other's efforts. For example, if NICE issues some clinical guidelines around a particular disease or technology, CEP can support that guidance by doing a piece of work on the specific products that support that guideline, perhaps by reviewing the market, or providing the national health service with comparative specifications to compare the products that are available.

### Medical Treatments: Statistics

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when and by whom the decision was taken that the statistics published on 8 November on referral to treatment times would include data on non-admitted patients. [165691]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The decision to publish referral to treatment data for non-admitted patients was made on 19 October. The date of publication was dependent on these data being of sufficient quality.

The Department's Director-General for NHS Finance, Performance and Operations, made the decision to publish these data on 8 November.

### Methadone

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been on methadone programmes for over five years. [166377]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Milton Keynes Hospital: Hospital Beds

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the occupancy rate of Milton Keynes hospital was in each month of the last three years. [167590]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the average daily bed occupancy rate at Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for the period covering 2004-05 to 2006-07 which is the latest data available.

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 85.2 |
| 2005-06 | 84 |
| 2006-07 | 86.4 |

*Source:*
Department of Health KH03 form

### Milton Keynes Hospital: Maternity Services

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of midwives to bays was in the delivery suite of Milton Keynes hospital in each shift in the last three months. [167589]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of individual national health service acute trusts to ensure that staffing levels are sufficient and do not compromise patient safety.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births there were in Milton Keynes Hospital in each month in each of the last five years. [168047]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 November 2007:*

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many births there were in Milton Keynes Hospital in each month in each of the last five years. (168047)

Figures on live births in hospitals are available from birth registration information. The latest available figures by place of birth are for 2005. The attached table shows the figures requested for the calendar years 2001 to 2005, for the General Hospital in Milton Keynes.

*Live births in Milton Keynes general hospital, by month of birth, 2001 to 2005*

| | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 241 | 258 | 290 | 289 | 270 |
| February | 229 | 236 | 252 | 255 | 239 |
| March | 232 | 288 | 265 | 284 | 289 |
| April | 241 | 248 | 235 | 302 | 247 |
| May | 228 | 249 | 251 | 289 | 277 |
| June | 260 | 216 | 313 | 224 | 277 |
| July | 261 | 263 | 284 | 279 | 315 |
| August | 289 | 274 | 285 | 286 | 291 |
| September | 238 | 270 | 282 | 273 | 265 |
| October | 258 | 261 | 289 | 284 | 283 |
| November | 248 | 250 | 269 | 284 | 248 |
| December | 244 | 232 | 277 | 255 | 268 |
| Total | 2,969 | 3,045 | 3,312 | 3,304 | 3,269 |

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to assist Milton Keynes hospital in meeting the Government aspiration of a one-to-one midwife per birth ratio in its delivery suite. [168048]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Local national health service trusts are responsible for the provision of maternity services. This year NHS organisations, including Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, have been required to review maternity services, including an assessment of their workforce capacity. A range of mechanisms are in place to support local recruitment of midwives if needs are identified, for example to enable midwives who are not practising to return to work in maternity services.

### National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what occasions his Department has agreed to a delay in implementing a National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence technology appraisal. [166382]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Directions that came into force on 1 January 2002 require primary care trusts and national health service trusts to make funds available to ensure that a health care intervention recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is normally available to NHS patients within three months of NICE issuing new technology appraisal guidance. There have been 12 appraisals for which the funding direction has been waived or amended. Details are given in the following table.

| *NICE appraisal title* | *Guidance publication date* | *Period of waiver* |
|---|---|---|
| Weight reduction for people with morbid obesity | July 2002 | Complete waiver |
| Haemodialysis—home versus hospital | September 2002 | Complete waiver |
| Ultrasound locating devices for placing central venous catheters | September 2002 | 12 months |
| Diabetes—Insulin pump therapy | February 2003 | 12 months |
| Diabetes—Patient education models | April 2003 | Complete waiver |
| Photodynamic therapy for age-related macular degeneration | September 2003 | 9 months |
| Liquid-based cytology for cervical screening | October 2003 | Complete waiver |
| Myocardial Perfusion Scintigraphy for the diagnosis and management of angina and myocardial infarction | November 2003 | Complete waiver |
| Laparoscopic surgery for Inguinal Hernia | September 2004 | Complete waiver |
| Computerised Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Anxiety and Depression | February 2006 | 12 months |
| Parent-training/education programmes in the management of children with conduct disorders | July 2006 | 24 months |
| Laparoscopic surgery for the treatment of colorectal cancer | August 2006 | Complete waiver |

## NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to open new private sector diagnostic and treatment centres for NHS patients; and if he will make a statement. [165160]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As part of the Phase 2 Independent Sector (IS) Procurement Programme, the Secretary of State has announced that approvals are in place for two new PET-CT schemes which will provide scanning services in the North and South of England, and for a new renal scheme which will provide dialysis services in Cheshire and Merseyside, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire to proceed to financial close. Seven other Phase 2 IS schemes will also proceed through the procurement process. These services will be run by the IS but funded by the national health service, and free to NHS patients.

## NHS: Billing

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether suppliers using NHS Shared Business Services are required to use the OB10 invoicing system; how many suppliers the NHS Shared Business Services deals with; and what the impact on costs to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Xansa are from OB10 being used. [164589]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** NHS Shared Business Services (SBS) Ltd is running a trial programme to establish the take up rate for electronic invoicing and OB10 is their preferred supplier. Neither client trusts nor suppliers are required to use the OB10 e-invoicing system and enrolment is entirely at the discretion of suppliers.

At present, NHS SBS has over 90,000 suppliers registered on its system.

No record of cost is being kept. NHS SBS is a 50/50 joint venture with Xansa Ltd. The Department's share of any profits made by NHS SBS will be passed on to its national health service customer base. If costs of NHS SBS reduce as a consequence of using OB10, the NHS's share of these will be fed back to its customers by way of additional profit distribution.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Shared Business Service costs *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Xansa to run. [164590]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In the last accounting year, NHS Shared Business Services made an operating loss after tax and interest of £13.268 million. This loss is borne equally by the two stakeholders.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS *(a)* trusts and *(b)* other organisations are implementing the OB10 invoicing system; what guidance his Department has given on the OB10 system; what assessment he has made of the effect on the price the NHS organisations pay for services and goods of the OB10 system; what estimate he has made of the net financial effect on the NHS of the OB10 invoicing system; and whether (i) the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, (ii) NHS Supply Chain and (iii) Collaborative Procurement Hubs (A) are using and (B) plan to use the OB10 system. [164591]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is up to individual national health service trusts and organisations to decide on whether e-invoicing is appropriate for their organisation and, if appropriate, the preferred supplier. Records are not held centrally on the number of NHS customers of OB10 or any other e-invoicing system.

No guidance on the use of OB10, or any other e-invoicing system, has been issued by the Department.

Use of e-invoicing systems such as OB10 has a number of benefits that should produce savings for all users. Costs are saved in the NHS trust because invoices do not have to be opened, scanned and distributed, and matching them to the order is simplified. There is greater accuracy and certainty for both supplier and the trust and suppliers benefit from speedier payment, in line with the Government's prompt payment policy.

No estimate has been made of the net financial impact on the NHS of the use of OB10.

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency do promote the use of OB10 among its suppliers, but do not mandate its use. NHS Supply Chain do not use OB10 and they already have their own integrated e-ordering and e-invoicing system.

No records are kept centrally regarding the e-invoicing policy of each NHS Collaborative Procurement Hub.

## NHS: Finance

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what market forces factor is used for each NHS trust. [166379]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The market forces factor indices that are used to inform central payments to National Health Service Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts for activity provided at national tariff in 2007-08. Copies have been placed in the Library.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 381W on NHS: finance, (1) whether the NHS is now expected to plan and manage its expenditure on a separate near-cash and non-cash basis; [167627]

(2) on what date his Department agreed with HM Treasury that the NHS would not plan or manage its expenditure on a separate near-cash and non-cash basis. [167628]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Under the current financial regime, the national health service is not expected to manage its expenditure on a separate near-cash and non-cash basis. While HM Treasury require Departments to manage expenditure on a near-cash and non-cash basis, it is a matter for the Department to decide whether this requirement is extended to the NHS.

## NHS: Loans

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 890W, on NHS: loans, when his Department estimates that the £777,881,000 in loans issued to NHS trusts in the UK on 22 March 2007 will be paid back. [167852]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The loans issued to NHS trusts on 22 March 2007 will be repaid in accordance with the loan terms shown in the following table:

| *Organisation name* | *Loan value (£000)* | *Loan term (years)* |
|---|---|---|
| Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust | 14,700 | 6 |
| Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | 5,000 | 5 |
| Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust | 17,500 | 4 |
| Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust | 4,500 | 3 |
| Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust | 29,322 | 6 |
| Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 6,250 | 2 |
| East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust | 7,800 | 5 |
| East Cheshire NHS Trust | 7,000 | 3 |
| East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust | 4,000 | 4 |
| Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust | 14,000 | 3 |
| George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust | 6,800 | 5 |
| Heatherwood and Wrexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust | 3,000 | 4 |
| Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust | 3,279 | 3 |
| Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 10,896 | 5 |
| Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust | 1,500 | 2 |
| Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust | 23,400 | 7 |
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | 6,604 | 2 |
| Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust | 11,000 | 3 |
| Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust | 23,400 | 5 |
| North Bristol NHS Trust | 52,000 | 20 |
| North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 8,800 | 3 |
| North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 12,000 | 15 |
| North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | 15,000 | 5 |
| North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust | 10,000 | 1 |
| North West London Hospitals NHS Trust | 23,830 | 5 |
| Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust | 5,600 | 2 |
| Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust | 9,600 | 3 |
| Nuffield Orthopaedic NHS Trust | 1,000 | 2 |
| Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust | 19,986 | 6 |
| Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | 2,500 | 4 |
| Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust | 8,415 | 2 |
| Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust | 13,650 | 5 |
| Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust | 6,300 | 3 |
| Rob Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust | 3,400 | 3 |
| Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust | 38,000 | 20 |
| Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust | 9,000 | 2 |
| Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust | 7,646 | 5 |
| Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust | 12,299 | 3 |
| South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust | 1,115 | 2 |
| South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust | 28,000 | 4 |
| South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust | 18,500 | 8 |
| Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust | 25,000 | 4 |
| St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust | 34,000 | 5 |

| Organisation name | Loan value (£000) | Loan term (years) |
|---|---|---|
| Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust | 56,000 | 25 |
| The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust | 23,000 | 14 |
| Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust | 1,700 | 3 |
| United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust | 20,300 | 20 |
| University Hospitals Of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust | 6,500 | 3 |
| West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 11,200 | 5 |
| West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust | 1,950 | 3 |
| Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust | 36,094 | 9 |
| Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust | 5,000 | 4 |
| Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust | 25,000 | 5 |
| Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | 5,632 | 5 |
| Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust | 17,005 | 8 |
| Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust | 2,908 | 1 |
| Total | 777,881 | — |

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts propose to declare interest payments on the loans given on 22 March 2007 on their end of year balance sheets in future financial years. [167888]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** National health service trusts declare interest payable on the loans issued on 22 March 2007 in their annual financial statements under the 'Interest Payable' heading on the face of the Income and Expenditure Account, and provide a more detailed breakdown of this figure in the associated note to the financial statements.

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts in receipt of loans issued on 22 March 2007 *(a)* included the loans on their end of year balance sheets for the financial year 2006-07 and *(b)* propose to include the loans on their end of year balance sheets for 2007-08. [167889]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Under national health service accounting policies, as set out in the NHS finance manual, NHS trusts are required to include the outstanding value of loan principal on their balance sheets from the time the loan is issued until such time as the principal is fully repaid.

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total annual interest payable on the £777.881 in loans issued to NHS trusts on 22 March 2007 will be. [167890]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The total interest payable in 2007-08 on the £777.881 million of loans issued to national health service trusts on 22 March 2007 is £38.705 million. The interest payable each year is calculated on the outstanding value of loan principal, and therefore reduces in future years as loan principal is repaid.

## NHS: Procurement

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contingency plans there are for national emergencies within the contract for supply chain logistics due to be managed by the Supply Chain Management Division of the NHS Business Service Authority; and if he will make a statement. [165277]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are no special arrangements in the NHS supply chain contract for contingency plans in the event of a national emergency. However, if required the NHS supply chain, under the direction of the NHS Business Services authority, will re-prioritise demand to ensure that emergency deliveries can be made on request and that in these circumstances delivery is to be made to the national health service within four hours of an order being placed.

## NHS: Public Participation

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* his Department and *(c)* Sutton Merton Primary Care Trust on the consultation on Better Healthcare Closer to Home. [166721]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A total of £280,000 was spent on the Better Healthcare Closer to Home consultation. The Department did not contribute separately to the funding of the consultation.

The costs were divided equally between the following organisations:

Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust (PCT)
East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey PCT
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority (SHA)
South West London SHA.

## Options for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008-09 to 2010-11

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's response to its consultation on Options for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008-09 to 2010-11. [166442]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department expects to publish its response to the "Option for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008-09 - 2010-11" consultation before the end of this year.

## Patient Choice Schemes

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which web browsers are compatible with Choose and Book; [164552]

(2) what web browsers are compatible with *(a)* each element and *(b)* all elements of the NHS information technology programme. [164553]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The choose and book professional application is fully compatible with Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6.0 (IE6). Users are advised to employ IE6, but can also use Internet Explorer version 7.0

(IE7). Instructions on optimum browser configuration for IE7 have been published on the choose and book website.

The choose and book patient application currently supports Microsoft Internet Explorer version 5.0 (IE5) and above. Microsoft Internet Explorer is used by over two thirds of all internet users in the United Kingdom, and for this reason was selected as the browser for which the patient web application was originally devised in order to provide access to the greatest number of patients in the shortest possible time. While this means that the site is not yet accessible to all internet users, work is in hand to ensure full accessibility, including to those who access via the Firefox and Safari web browsers. A new release of the patient application will mean that the Firefox browser will be supported from December 2007.

All the national programme's core applications and services require web browser functionality. Suppliers are delivering solutions which will in due course be accessible via all versions of IE or Firefox. However, in the short term, some current versions of suppliers' solutions are limited to IE6.

### Patients: Transport

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the Hospital Travel Costs scheme in each year since 1997-98 for which figures are available; and how many patients received grants under the scheme in each year. [167830]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information on the cost of the Hospital Travel Costs scheme, nor on how many patients have claimed a reimbursement under the scheme. It is for primary care trusts, as local commissioners of healthcare services, to make provisions so that patients with either a financial or a medical need for transport can travel to and from their treatment or care.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in the budgets of which NHS organisations funding for the Hospital Travel Costs scheme is held; and whether this money is ringfenced. [167831]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Funding for the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme is built into financial allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs), who commission hospital services on behalf of patients. This has not been explicitly identified, in line with the policy to devolve decision making to a local level.

PCTs are responsible for reimbursing healthcare providers for the payments made under the scheme for all patients resident within their districts. Where the treatment given is within the scope of the national tariff, reimbursement will be included in the tariff payment. Where the treatment given is outside the scope of the national tariff, the PCT should make arrangements for healthcare providers to be reimbursed at periodic intervals.

### Pharmacy

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to give the NHS Business Services Authority the *(a)* power and *(b)* additional resources to monitor the number of claim payments for medicines use reviews by each contractor; [166395]

(2) how many pharmacies exceeded the limit on claim payments for medicines use reviews in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; [166398]

(3) by how much pharmacy contractors exceeded the limit on claim payments for medicines use reviews in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [166399]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* It is for primary care trusts to monitor medicines use review service provision by community pharmacies and adjust individual community pharmacy remuneration according to that service provision. Therefore there are no plans to change the role of the Prescription Pricing Division (PPD) of the NHS Business Services Authority.

During the financial year April 2005 to March 2006, 25 pharmacies exceeded the limit of 250 on payments for medicines use reviews (MURs). In the financial year April 2006 to March 2007, 126 pharmacies exceeded the limit of 400. These figures do not take account of the pharmacies to whom the lower limit of 200 applied because they started providing the service mid year. In 2005-06 and 2006-07, the average number of MURs per pharmacy was 39 and 96 respectively.

In the financial year 2005-06, excess payments to those pharmacies that exceeded the limit was £42,218 (1,966 claims) and in the year 2006-07, the excess payment was £67,650 (2,706 claims). These figures do not reflect any recovery of excess payments made by primary care trusts (PCTs) nor does it take account of the pharmacies to which the lower limit of 200 applied because they started providing the service mid year. This is a matter for PCTs as they can locally commission and fund additional MURs above the national threshold.

### Social Services: Finance

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much is planned to be spent by each local authority and in total by all local authorities on *(a)* direct payments for social care, *(b)* supported and other accommodation, *(c)* nursing home placements, *(d)* equipment and adaptations, *(e)* meals, *(f)* other services, *(g)* assessment and case management, *(h)* day care, *(i)* residential care home placement and *(j)* home care for elderly people; and what percentage of their total health and social care budgets each of these figures represent. [167845]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is not available centrally.

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each local authority is planning to spend on care for elderly and disabled persons who are in *(a)* critical need, *(b)* substantial need, *(c)* moderate need and *(d)* low need according to Fair Access to Care Services guidance to local authorities in 2002 in 2007-08; and what each authority spent on each of these categories in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06 and (iv) 2006-07. [167851]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not held centrally.

It is for individual local authorities to manage and direct their own resources in accordance with local priorities and the needs of the communities to which they are accountable. Local authorities should refer to the "Fair Access to Care Services—Guidance on Eligibility for Adult Social Care". A copy has been placed in the Library.

### Spinal Injuries

**James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with spinal cord injuries were discharged from hospital to a nursing home in each year since 2001, broken down by age. [167152]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information on the number of people with spinal cord injuries discharged from hospital to a nursing home is not collected centrally.

### Steroids: Death

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of fatalities caused by the abuse of anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs in each of the last 10 years. [166641]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There have been two deaths in England between 1997 and 2006 in which anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs were implicated or may have played a contributory part.

*Source:*

Statistics from The National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths

### Surgery: Private Sector

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on offsetting costs of private operations in order for a person to return to work and leave statutory sick pay. [164670]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The Department has no policy of offsetting the cost of private operations.

By December 2008, national health service patients can expect a maximum wait of 18 weeks from general practitioner referral to the start of consultant-led treatment. Most patients will be treated much quicker than that, allowing them to return to work much more quickly where appropriate. Latest figures for patients who started their treatment in August 2007 show that seven out of 10 patients are already being treated in 18 weeks or less.

The introduction of patient choice is increasing patients' ability to choose a provider that can treat them rapidly. The Hospital Travel Costs Scheme, part of the NHS Low Income Scheme, ensures that no one is denied access to the hospital of their choice because they cannot afford the cost of travel.

Finally, practice-based commissioners have flexibility to use their resources to achieve longer-term budget savings and better patient outcomes by commissioning social care or preventative interventions. Such interventions could be focused on helping people to return to work.

### Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust: Manpower

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-clinical staff are employed by Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust; and how many were employed in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2005. [166720]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** This information is not collected in the format requested. Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust (PCT) was formed in 2002, and so figures for 1997 and 2001 are unavailable. Also, figures for 2007 are not yet available.

The following table shows figures for non-clinical staff employed by Sutton and Merton PCT from 2002 to 2006.

*National Health Service Hospital and community health services: NHS staff in the Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust by each specified staff group as at 30 September each specified year*

*Headcount*

| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total specified staff | 1,276 | 1,230 | 1,629 | 1,894 | 1,505 |
| *Support to clinical staff* | 528 | 534 | 784 | 809 | 689 |
| Support to doctors and nursing staff | 501 | 492 | 732 | 753 | 617 |
| Support to scientific therapeutic and technical staff | 27 | 42 | 52 | 56 | 72 |
| *NHS infrastructure support* | 285 | 233 | 247 | 270 | 214 |
| Central functions | 179 | 135 | 155 | 164 | 139 |
| Hotel, property and estates | 7 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 8 |
| Managers and senior managers | 99 | 88 | 80 | 95 | 67 |
| GP practice staff | 463 | 463 | 598 | 815 | 602 |

*Notes:*

1. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.
2. General practitioner (GP) practice staff (excluding practice nurses) includes direct patient care, administrative and clerical and other staff paid by GP practices, which are contracted by the PCT.
3. Sutton and Merton PCT was formed in 2002.

*Sources:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services Statistics

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practice nurses there were in *(a)* Wimbledon constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Merton in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [166722]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is only available by primary care trust (PCT) area, and figures

for 2007 are not yet available. Also, Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth Primary Care Trust was the organisation in existence in 1997 covering the London borough of Merton.

The following table details the number of practice nurses for Sutton and Merton PCT in 2006, and for Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth PCT in 1997.

*Practice nurses by selected areas, as at 1 October 1997 and 30 September 2006*

| | | *Numbers (headcount)* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *1997* | *2006* |
| 5M7 | Sutton & Merton PCT | [1]— | 136 |
| 5LG | Wandsworth PCT | [1]— | 119 |
| QAJ | Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth | 244 | [1]— |

[1] Denotes data not available.

*Note:*
Data presented for organisations in existence in the specified years.

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

### Thrombosis: Medical Treatments

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to assess therapies for venous thromboembolism which are being developed. [166380]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is developing a clinical guideline on the prevention of venous thromboembolism in all hospital patients. NICE expects to publish this guidance in 2009.

In June 2007, the Secretary of State made a 'minded' technology appraisal referral to NICE of the drug dabigatran etexilate for the prevention of venous thromboembolism following elective hip or knee replacement surgery in adults. NICE has undertaken a consultation on the remit and scope of this appraisal and a final decision on its referral to NICE will be taken shortly.

### Tobacco

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has provided towards national tobacco strategies in each of the last five years. [166697][1]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has provided the following funding to support the Government's national tobacco strategies set out as follows:

The following table shows advertising expenditure on the dangers of smoking from 2003-04 to date.

| *Expenditure on education campaigns financial year* | *Tobacco control (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 17.76 |
| 2004-05 | 25.00 |
| 2005-06 | 23.00 |
| 2006-07 | 13.50 |
| 2007-08 | 11.39 |

The Department awarded a grant of £2,670,000 to Cancer Research UK (CRUK) under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 to fund the charity's Light and Mild campaign in 2003-04. A further grant of £300,000 grant was made in 2006-07 for CRUK's media campaign on the harmful constituents of secondhand smoke.

The Department awarded a grant of £5,000,000 to British Heart Foundation (BHF) under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 to fund the charity's media campaign in 2004-05 on heart disease caused by smoking. A further grant of £4,000,000 was made in 2005-06 to BHF for a media campaign highlighting the dangers of smoking and heart disease.

In each year since 2003, £2 million has been funding allocated to the nationwide system of local tobacco alliances and the Regional Tobacco Policy Managers.

| *Financial year* | *Financial allocations to the national health service for stop smoking services (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 41 |
| 2004-05 | 46 |
| 2005-06 | 51 |
| 2006-07 | 56 |
| 2007-08 | 56 |

The Department's grants to Action on Smoking Health (ASH) under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 are set out in the following table.

| *Financial year* | *Grants (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 164,000 |
| 2004-05 | 168,000 |
| 2005-06 | 180,000 |
| 2006-07 | 185,400 |
| 2007-08 | 191,000 |

The Department's grants to the No Smoking Day (NSD) organisation are set out in the following table.

| *Financial year* | *Grants (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 250,000 |
| 2004-05 | 250,000 |
| 2005-06 | 250,000 |
| 2006-07 | 250,000 |
| 2007-08 | 250,000 |

The Department's grants to QUIT (an organisation that provides support to smokers who want to quit smoking) under section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 are set out in the following table.

| *Financial year* | *Grants (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 10,000 |
| 2003-04 | 20,000 |
| 2004-05 | 25,000 |

1. *[Official Report, 25 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 18MC.]*

## Tuberculosis

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases of atypical tuberculosis were recorded in each of the last five years; which species of mycobacteria was responsible for each infection; and where these infections occurred; [164597]

(2) what definition his Department uses of *(a)* typical and *(b)* atypical tuberculosis. [165970]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The terms typical tuberculosis and atypical tuberculosis are not formally recognised and are therefore not defined.

We have interpreted typical tuberculosis to mean "tuberculosis"—a clinical disease that is defined by either:

confirmation by laboratory culture of a sputum or other sample of infection, due to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (including *M. tuberculosis, M. bovis* and *M. africanum*).

or

in the clinician's judgment in the absence of culture confirmation, clinical and/or radiological signs and/or symptoms compatible with tuberculosis, which are treated with a full course of anti-tuberculosis treatment.

We have interpreted "atypical tuberculosis" to mean disease caused by "atypical mycobacteria", or non-tuberculous mycobacteria. It refers to infections caused by all other organisms of the family Mycobacteria excluding tuberculosis (caused by *M. tuberculosis* complex) and leprosy (caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*). Most of these organisms are ubiquitous in the environment and do not usually cause disease in humans except in individuals whose immune system is compromised. There are over 125 known "non-tuberculous mycobacteria" (the preferred term to describe these organisms).

Disease or infection due to non-tuberculosis mycobacteria is not currently notifiable and therefore there are no reliable data on the number of cases in the last five years.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis there have been in each year since 1997, broken down by strategic health authority area. [166449]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The number of cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) by strategic health authority are shown in the following table, with data from 1998-2006.

The Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance system (ETS) started in 1999. Prior to this, National TB Surveys were carried out every five years and this provided data for 1998.

| *SHA* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 9 | 11 | 11 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 15 | 22 |
| East of England | 9 | <5 | 9 | 19 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 29 | 19 |
| London | 82 | 97 | 107 | 132 | 165 | 191 | 185 | 179 | 203 |
| North East | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| North West | 11 | 10 | 17 | 14 | 20 | 12 | 20 | 26 | 18 |
| South Central | 15 | 16 | 7 | <5 | 9 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 14 |
| South East Coast | <5 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 13 |
| South West | 11 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| West Midlands | 20 | 20 | 19 | 21 | 36 | 20 | 26 | 25 | 21 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 9 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 18 | 26 | 31 | 27 |

*Source:*
ETS, Health Protection Agency, as at 16 November 2007.

## Working Parties

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many working parties there are under the direction of his Department. [166373]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In a survey carried out in autumn 2006, the Department identified over 200 working parties, including task forces and steering groups, which engaged stakeholders in working with the Department on policy, strategy and delivery. Such working parties, are set up by the Department's policy sections as needed and disbanded when no longer required.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 26 November 2007*

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Adoption: Standards

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to support efforts designed to meet the National Adoption Target; and if he will make a statement. [164704]

**Kevin Brennan:** There is no national adoption target currently. This target ended in March 2006.

### Children in Care

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has commissioned into the causes of the recent increase in the number of *(a)* babies, *(b)* children and *(c)* young people taken into care; and if he will make a statement. [164711]

**Kevin Brennan:** No such research has been commissioned. The numbers of children, by age, who were taken into care[1] in England in each of the past four years were as follows:

[1] Children 'taken into care' are those who became looked after during the course of the year under a care order or were detained for child protection.

| *Age on starting to be looked after (years)* | *Number of children* |
|---|---|
| *Year ending 31 March 2004* | |
| All children | 7,500 |
| Under 1 | 2,000 |
| 1 to 4 | 2,100 |
| 5 to 9 | 1,800 |
| 10 to 15 | 1,600 |
| 16 and over | 60 |
| *Year ending 31 March 2005* | |
| All children | 7,700 |
| Under 1 | 2,000 |
| 1 to 4 | 2,100 |
| 5 to 9 | 1,800 |
| 10 to 15 | 1,700 |
| 16 and over | 50 |
| *Year ending 31 March 2006* | |
| All children | 7,700 |
| Under 1 | 2,100 |
| 1 to 4 | 2,100 |
| 5 to 9 | 1,800 |
| 10 to 15 | 1,700 |
| 16 and over | 50 |
| *Year ending 31 March 2007* | |
| All children | 7,600 |
| Under 1 | 2,100 |
| 1 to 4 | 2,100 |
| 5 to 9 | 1,800 |
| 10 to 15 | 1,500 |
| 16 and over | 60 |

*Note:*
1. Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.
2. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

*Source:*
SSDA903 return on children looked after.

### Children: Sexual Offences

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made by his Department in improving protection for children from sex offenders; and if he will make a statement. [166707]

**Kevin Brennan:** The safety of children and young people, including their protection from sex offenders, is a top priority. The Department for Children, Schools and Families is working with the Home Office and the Department of Health to introduce the toughest ever vetting and barring system, under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, for all those working with, or seeking to work with, children and vulnerable adults. This will incorporate a robust, independent and expert barring process and will provide a modern and improved vetting service for employers, including parents. Pending the implementation of this new vetting and barring service, we have strengthened existing arrangements in a number of ways. We have extended the range of offences which will result in automatic inclusion on List 99 to include cautions as well as convictions for sexual offences against children. We have strengthened and clarified the requirements for safe recruitment in schools and further education colleges and required better record keeping on recruitment checks from these institutions.

On 13 June 2007, the Home Office published the Review of the Protection of Children from Sex Offenders. This set out a number of actions to help improve the protection of children from sex offenders. Work is underway to put these steps in place.

### Departmental Assets

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each asset is; what the expected revenue from each sale is; and if he will make a statement. [164156]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department will be publishing an asset management strategy in December 2007, which will provide details of our planned disposals up to 2010-11.

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Spending Review 2004 targets; on what date each was initiated; how much each was expected to contribute to the target; how much has been saved by each; and if he will make a statement. [164147]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department is jointly committed with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), to the efficiency target set originally for the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

The DfES target is 2.5 per cent. a year over the Spending Review 2004 period. This means being able to demonstrate cumulative gains against our baseline of £1.45 billion in 2005-06, £2.9 billion in 2006-07 and £4.35 billion in 2007-08.

The Department put in place an Efficiency Programme to manage the efficiency gains. Details of this programme and the initiatives which underpin it are detailed in the Efficiency Technical Note which can be found on the Department's website.

The Department reports progress towards our Gershon target in the Department's Autumn Performance Report. This is about to be published in December 2007.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of his departmental staff were previously employed by other departments, broken down by the other departments concerned. [161933]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department was created as part of the Machinery of Government changes announced on 28 June 2007. The vast majority of our staff are from the former Department for Education and Skills, with the exception of 40 staff who transferred in from the Home Office as the Respect Task Force, now known as the Youth Task Force and part of Youth Directorate in my Department. This represents around 1.4 per cent. of our staffing headcount total of 2,931 staff.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people were employed by his Department and its predecessor on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [163199]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 30 October, *Official Report*, column 1131W.

### Geronimo Communications

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments his Department and its predecessors made to Geronimo Communications in each year since 1997. [164506]

**Kevin Brennan:** Details of payments made to Geronimo Communication by the Department and its predecessors over the last nine years are set out as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 320,132 |
| 2000-01 | 715,379 |
| 2001-02 | 1,221,349 |
| 2002-03 | 1,347,384 |
| 2003-04 | 1,153,197 |
| 2004-05 | 459,374 |
| 2005-06 | 2,441,139 |
| 2006-07 | 2,013,211 |
| 2007-08 (to October 2007) | 1,157,691 |

The data were requested for the last 11 years, however, the Department is only able to supply nine years. The Department is only required to retain financial records and original documentation for six years after the end of the financial year in which the transaction took place.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a Machinery of Government change and the expenditure recorded above includes those of the two predecessor departments, the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) and the Department of Education and Skills (DfES). The expenditure for 2007-08 will also include any costs incurred by the newly created Department for Universities, Innovation and Skills, where these costs relate to areas formerly the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills.

### Parents: Training

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when training programmes provided by the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners are expected to begin; [167540]

(2) how much funding his Department has committed to the establishment of the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners. [167541]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Academy has already begun delivering training programmes. There are two strands. The first, which began in September, is training practitioners across the country in Sure Start Children Centres, Extended Schools, Youth Offending Teams and other local settings, including voluntary and community groups, in skills for working effectively with parents. The second strand, to be offered initially from January 2008, is training practitioners to deliver established evidence-based parenting skills courses.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has committed a total of £30 million in grant funding to the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners over the three year period, 2007-10. The Academy's purpose is to improve the skills of the work force in working effectively with families and ensure there are sufficient practitioners trained to deliver evidence-based parenting programmes. It will map existing parenting support provision across the country in order to identify under-served locations and groups; and conduct research, including evaluating specialist parenting programmes, for example for foster parents.

## Primary Education: Havering

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the levels of numeracy and literacy are among primary school leavers in *(a)* Romford and *(b)* the London borough of Havering. [168426]

**Jim Knight:** Levels of literacy and numeracy in primary school leavers are most conveniently measured by the proportions of children gaining national curriculum level 4 and above in English and mathematics, since this represents the expected national standard. Information on the percentages of 11-year-olds in Romford and Havering achieving these levels since 1997 is provided in the following table. Constituency level figures are not yet available for 2006/07, but will be published on the Department's website in December.

*Key stage 2 level 4+*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Romford* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| English | 70 | 74 | 82 | 82 | 81 | 83 | 80 | 83 | 88 | 85 | — |
| Mathematics | 68 | 70 | 76 | 77 | 77 | 78 | 80 | 79 | 83 | 82 | — |
| *Havering* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| English | 71 | 71 | 78 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 80 | 81 | 85 | 84 | 84 |
| Mathematics | 67 | 65 | 76 | 76 | 75 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 81 | 80 | 81 |
| *England* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| English | 63 | 65 | 71 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 78 | 79 | 79 | 80 |
| Mathematics | 62 | 59 | 69 | 72 | 71 | 73 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 |

*Note:*
Figures for 2006-07 are provisional, all other figures are final.

## Pupils: Absenteeism

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the rate of *(a)* authorised and *(b)* unauthorised absence is from English schools by children in their last year of compulsory education. [162188]

**Kevin Brennan:** The following table showing the rate of absence by national curriculum year group has been published in Statistical First Release 11/2007—'Pupil Absence in Secondary Schools in England, 2005-06'.

Updated information relating to the 2006/07 school year is intended for publication in February 2008.

*Maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies[1]: Pupil absence by national curriculum year group[2] 2005-06, England*

| | | *Percentage of half days missed[4]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *National curriculum year group* | *Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[3]* | *Authorised absence* | *Unauthorised absence* | *Overall absence* |
| 6 and below | 52,130 | 5.35 | 0.28 | 5.63 |
| 7 | 569,150 | 5.73 | 0.58 | 6.31 |
| 8 | 579,690 | 6.48 | 0.90 | 7.38 |
| 9 | 598,760 | 6.76 | 1.30 | 8.06 |
| 10 | 601,220 | 6.98 | 1.84 | 8.82 |
| 11 | 581,300 | 8.05 | 2.43 | 10.48 |
| 12 and above | 800 | 5.26 | 3.40 | 8.66 |
| Total[5] | 2,983,040 | 6.82 | 1.42 | 8.24 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] See Notes to Editors 10 for further information on how absence figures by national curriculum year group have been derived.
[3] Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.
[4] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
[5] Includes pupil enrolments for whom information on national curriculum year group was missing.
*Note:*
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

## Schools: Admissions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons local authorities are under an obligation to remove surplus school places; and if he will make a statement. [168196]

**Jim Knight:** Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places local authorities under a duty to secure that "efficient primary education, secondary education and further education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area".

Funding used to maintain empty school places can represent an inefficient use of resources that could be better spent raising standards for parents and pupils.

However, there is no 'surplus places rule' that would prevent the addition of provision where surplus places exist. As statutory guidance makes clear

"Where proposals add to surplus capacity but there is a strong case for approval on parental preference and standards grounds, the presumption should be for approval. The LA in these cases will need to consider parallel action to remove the surplus capacity thereby created."

### Skilled Workers: Havering

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure that residents from the London borough of Havering will have the necessary skills to ensure they can take advantage of jobs resulting from the Olympics in 2012. [168417]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

This year the Learning and Skills Council is introducing a £5 million package of measures across London to ensure that Londoners are motivated into work or training and able to compete for London 2012 opportunities and good jobs beyond 2012. This package will improve skills and training opportunities for Londoners in four key sectors related to the London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games: sport, customer service, audio-visual and construction. Demand for skilled workers in these four sectors is forecast to increase in the run-up to 2012 and beyond.

Specific measures include advanced apprenticeships in sporting excellence and apprenticeships in sports and leisure; bursaries towards UK coaching certificates; training for people on incapacity and health benefit to enable them to become construction trade A1 assessors; preparing local residents for construction apprenticeships at Kings Cross station; delivering new apprenticeships in customer service/ hospitality; co-funding the research and development of a new customer service 'gold standard' to raise the bar of customer services in London for the games; and increasing the number and quality of work-based learning programmes on offer in the audio-visual industry. Additionally, the LSC has invested in the LDA-led personal best programme, graduates of which will have the opportunity to be interviewed for the London 2012 volunteering programme; and has entered into a training partnership with the Olympic delivery authority, construction skills and the London Development Agency with the objective of ensuring National Skills Academy for Construction status for the whole Olympic site.

### Truancy

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to reduce truancy since 1997. [167895]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department focuses on reducing all unnecessary absences from schools, not just those which are unauthorised. Overall absence rates have been substantially lower than the 1996-97 rate of 7.23 per cent. in all but two of the last nine years for which full data are available. Partial data for 2006-07, which we placed in the Library of the House in October 2007, indicate that the downward tend is continuing.

There is no direct measure of truancy. Unauthorised absence is often used as a proxy for truancy, but it is an imperfect measure because it also includes lateness and some term time holidays. It is also well known that unauthorised absence tends to rise when schools take a tougher line on absence generally, as it has done in recent years, without necessarily reflecting any underlying increase in truancy. That is why my Department has moved away from focusing narrowly on rates of unauthorised absence.

We now know that a small minority of pupils account for large proportions of absence: in secondary schools, just 7 per cent. of pupils account for 62 per cent. of unauthorised absences and 32 per cent. of all absences. That is why we are now focusing our efforts on reducing persistent absence, which includes truancy, in schools where this problem is most acute. This is proving highly effective. Last year, our targeted challenge and support in 436 secondary schools helped to reduce the number of persistent absentees in those schools by over 20 per cent. We are continuing that focus on reducing persistent absence across all local authorities and their schools.

### Young People: Employment

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* 16 to 18 and *(b)* 18 to 24-year-olds were classed as not in employment, education or training by local authorities for (i) up to six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 18 months, (iv) 18 to 24 months and (v) over 24 months in each year since 1992. [165244]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The information requested is not available. The Department's estimates of the number and proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) cannot be disaggregated to regional or local authority level, and do not show durations of time spent NEET. However, it is possible to produce snapshot estimates of the numbers and proportions of 16 to 18-year-olds[1] NEET by local authority using Connexions data, and of 18 to 24-year-olds[2] NEET by local authority using the Annual Population Survey (APS), formerly the Local Labour Force Survey (LLFS). These estimates are shown in the table.

As with all survey estimates the NEET estimates from the APS and LLFS are subject to sampling error. Estimates from the APS and LLFS will not be directly comparable to estimates from Connexions.

Estimates from Connexions (covering the period November to January) are only available for 2005 and 2006, LLFS estimates (covering the period May to April) are available between 2001/02 and 2004/05, and APS estimates (covering the period January to December) are available for 2005 and 2006.

[1] Connexions estimates relate to people of calendar age 16 to 18.

[2] Local Labour Force estimates relate to people of academic age 18 to 24.

*Number and proportion of 16-18 year olds and 18-24 year olds NEET by local authority*

| | Connexions data | | | | Annual population survey (APS) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2005 | | 2006 | | APS 2005 | | APS 2006 | |
| | 16-18 year olds NEET[1] | Percentage 16-18 year olds NEET[1] | 16-18 year olds NEET[1] | Percentage 16-18 year olds NEET[1] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] |
| *South East* | | | | | | | | |
| Bracknell Forest | 250 | 9 | 180 | 6 | 1,280 | 16 | 1,310 | 13 |
| Reading | 560 | 11 | 400 | 7 | 2,070 | 12 | 1,950 | 14 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 180 | 5 | 140 | 4 | 1,010 | 13 | 1,250 | 14 |
| Slough | 410 | 9 | 240 | 5 | 1,440 | 11 | 2,500 | 20 |
| West Berkshire | 300 | 6 | 240 | 5 | 1,380 | 13 | 2,140 | 19 |
| Wokingham | 230 | 6 | 150 | 5 | 350 | 3 | 1,310 | 10 |
| Kent | 2,930 | 6 | 2,970 | 6 | 13,200 | 13 | 19,300 | 19 |
| Medway | 820 | 8 | 620 | 6 | 1,970 | 10 | 3,270 | 16 |
| Buckinghamshire | 550 | 4 | 450 | 3 | 4,480 | 12 | 4,990 | 14 |
| Milton Keynes | 580 | 8 | 490 | 6 | 3,110 | 17 | 3,000 | 18 |
| Oxfordshire | 890 | 5 | 900 | 5 | 1,340 | 2 | 6,000 | 11 |
| Portsmouth | 540 | 11 | 460 | 10 | 2,220 | 12 | 3,440 | 16 |
| Southampton | 710 | 10 | 640 | 9 | 3,210 | 10 | 3,720 | 12 |
| Isle of Wight | 240 | 6 | 260 | 6 | 1,310 | 17 | 1,600 | 20 |
| Hampshire | 2,000 | 5 | 2,140 | 5 | 12,200 | 12 | 12,790 | 13 |
| Surrey | 1,040 | 3 | 960 | 3 | 9,600 | 12 | 7,520 | 9 |
| Brighton and Hove | 750 | 11 | 710 | 11 | 2,410 | 11 | 3,450 | 12 |
| East Sussex | 1,200 | 8 | 1,170 | 8 | 3,950 | 12 | 3,900 | 12 |
| West Sussex | 1,090 | 5 | 1,050 | 5 | 5,790 | 12 | 7,800 | 15 |
| *London* | | | | | | | | |
| Camden | 440 | 9 | 380 | 7 | 3,210 | 15 | 3,120 | 16 |
| Islington | 650 | 11 | 550 | 9 | 5,080 | 25 | 3,880 | 21 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 190 | 9 | 190 | 8 | 1,760 | 14 | 2,990 | 22 |
| Lambeth | 790 | 15 | 510 | 11 | 6,560 | 27 | 4,330 | 19 |
| Southwark | 770 | 15 | 610 | 12 | 6,310 | 24 | 6,150 | 23 |
| Wandsworth | 460 | 7 | 400 | 6 | 4,150 | 16 | 2,200 | 9 |
| Westminster[3] | 380 | 8 | 260 | 7 | 3,550 | 14 | 3,090 | 12 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 730 | 12 | 730 | 11 | 2,380 | 17 | 4,610 | 26 |
| Bexley | 610 | 8 | 480 | 7 | 900 | 5 | 3,560 | 18 |
| City of London[3, 4] | | | 10 | 1 | 5,470 | 10 | 3,440 | 7 |
| Greenwich | 880 | 12 | 840 | 12 | 6,560 | 32 | 5,840 | 25 |
| Hackney | 760 | 16 | 670 | 13 | 6,160 | 29 | 4,850 | 24 |
| Havering | 650 | 7 | 590 | 6 | 2,280 | 13 | 1,730 | 10 |
| Lewisham | 670 | 9 | 500 | 7 | 4,880 | 25 | 4,310 | 22 |
| Newham | 880 | 10 | 950 | 11 | 5,760 | 22 | 5,410 | 20 |
| Redbridge | 570 | 7 | 430 | 5 | 4,950 | 24 | 5,060 | 25 |
| Tower Hamlets[4] | 870 | 13 | 680 | 11 | 6,660 | 22 | 9,060 | 26 |
| Barnet | 600 | 6 | 510 | 5 | 2,190 | 8 | 2,810 | 8 |
| Enfield | 840 | 8 | 690 | 7 | 6,700 | 29 | 4,340 | 23 |
| Haringey | 740 | 12 | 630 | 12 | 4,310 | 22 | 6,540 | 28 |
| Waltham Forest | 550 | 7 | 540 | 6 | 4,710 | 24 | 3,270 | 14 |
| Bromley | 550 | 5 | 510 | 5 | 1,540 | 7 | 5,040 | 23 |
| Croyden | 940 | 9 | 830 | 8 | 3,630 | 11 | 4,900 | 15 |
| Kingston | 210 | 4 | 180 | 3 | 5,940 | 20 | 5,070 | 20 |
| Merton | 220 | 8 | 200 | 7 | 3,800 | 23 | 2,590 | 12 |
| Richmond | 200 | 4 | 140 | 4 | 1,810 | 15 | 3,320 | 25 |
| Sutton | 370 | 5 | 340 | 5 | 2,340 | 15 | 2,410 | 19 |
| Brent | 400 | 5 | 450 | 7 | 4,070 | 17 | 6,090 | 24 |
| Ealing | 530 | 8 | 500 | 8 | 4,340 | 16 | 5,030 | 18 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 450 | 16 | 280 | 8 | 2,060 | 10 | 2,550 | 15 |
| Harrow | 370 | 5 | 360 | 5 | 2,130 | 15 | 980 | 6 |
| Hillingdon | 780 | 8 | 710 | 7 | 4,580 | 19 | 4,220 | 19 |
| Hounslow | 540 | 7 | 600 | 8 | 2,010 | 10 | 3,650 | 15 |
| *East of England* | | | | | | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 930 | 7 | 920 | 7 | 3,360 | 10 | 6,140 | 18 |

*Number and proportion of 16-18 year olds and 18-24 year olds NEET by local authority*

| | Connexions data | | | | Annual population survey (APS) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2005 | | 2006 | | APS 2005 | | APS 2006 | |
| | 16-18 year olds NEET[1] | Percentage 16-18 year olds NEET[1] | 16-18 year olds NEET[1] | Percentage 16-18 year olds NEET[1] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] |
| Luton | 600 | 9 | 620 | 9 | 3,800 | 22 | 3,870 | 22 |
| Cambridgeshire | 960 | 6 | 900 | 5 | 5,130 | 10 | 4,230 | 8 |
| Peterborough | 680 | 10 | 610 | 9 | 2,600 | 19 | 3,110 | 21 |
| Essex | 3,580 | 9 | 2,890 | 7 | 12,220 | 12 | 12,260 | 12 |
| Thurrock | 530 | 9 | 450 | 8 | 1,630 | 15 | 2,060 | 19 |
| Southend | 560 | 8 | 530 | 7 | 2,720 | 22 | 2,440 | 21 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,840 | 5 | 1,670 | 5 | 9,310 | 12 | 11,760 | 15 |
| Norfolk | 1,870 | 8 | 2,040 | 8 | 9,610 | 17 | 8,750 | 15 |
| Suffolk | 1,790 | 9 | 1,780 | 8 | 6,990 | 14 | 8,690 | 18 |
| *South West* | | | | | | | | |
| Bournemouth | 360 | 8 | 400 | 9 | 1,040 | 6 | 1,370 | 7 |
| Dorset | 660 | 6 | 770 | 7 | 3,710 | 13 | 2,010 | 9 |
| Poole | 300 | 7 | 290 | 6 | 1,360 | 16 | 1,380 | 15 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 1,210 | 7 | 1,060 | 6 | 5,520 | 12 | 3,800 | 10 |
| Devon | 1,310 | 6 | 1,300 | 6 | 4,090 | 20 | 4,130 | 21 |
| Plymouth | 820 | 8 | 710 | 7 | 4,430 | 18 | 4,160 | 15 |
| Torbay | 280 | 6 | 320 | 7 | 1,310 | 15 | 1,620 | 21 |
| Gloucestershire | 1,200 | 6 | 920 | 5 | 6,760 | 15 | 7,620 | 17 |
| Somerset | 860 | 5 | 760 | 5 | 4,500 | 16 | 5,230 | 15 |
| Bath and NE Somerset | 310 | 5 | 260 | 4 | 2,150 | 14 | 2,060 | 10 |
| Bristol | 1,030 | 9 | 950 | 8 | 7,410 | 17 | 5,270 | 14 |
| North Somerset | 270 | 5 | 250 | 5 | 1,280 | 8 | 1,110 | 8 |
| South Gloucestershire | 460 | 5 | 390 | 5 | 1,900 | 9 | 1,390 | 7 |
| Swindon | 410 | 6 | 580 | 8 | 2,370 | 14 | 2,340 | 17 |
| Wiltshire | 660 | 6 | 740 | 6 | 4,320 | 14 | 5,330 | 16 |
| *West Midlands* | | | | | | | | |
| Birmingham | 4,630 | 14 | 3,920 | 11 | 23,120 | 25 | 21,850 | 20 |
| Solihull | 870 | 9 | 690 | 8 | 3,740 | 24 | 1,870 | 13 |
| Dudley | 930 | 8 | 840 | 6 | 14,280 | 33 | 9,390 | 21 |
| Sandwell | 1,040 | 11 | 1,140 | 16 | 7,190 | 26 | 5,880 | 26 |
| Walsall | 960 | 10 | 870 | 9 | 5,120 | 20 | 5,900 | 26 |
| Wolverhampton | 1,020 | 11 | 960 | 11 | 3,580 | 20 | 3,940 | 21 |
| Coventry | 1,000 | 9 | 950 | 9 | 6,010 | 21 | 2,580 | 9 |
| Warwickshire | 1,040 | 6 | 1,150 | 7 | 4,510 | 11 | 6,170 | 15 |
| Herefordshire | 370 | 7 | 290 | 6 | 1,340 | 19 | 1,260 | 12 |
| Worcestershire | 1,070 | 7 | 920 | 6 | 4,310 | 11 | 4,710 | 14 |
| Shropshire | 460 | 6 | 430 | 5 | 3,800 | 19 | 2,130 | 12 |
| Telford and the Wrekin | 510 | 9 | 530 | 9 | 2,130 | 16 | 3,230 | 22 |
| Staffordshire | 1,960 | 7 | 2,050 | 8 | 5,990 | 10 | 6,990 | 12 |
| Stoke on Trent | 1,380 | 16 | 1,430 | 16 | 5,040 | 23 | 6,140 | 22 |
| *East Midlands* | | | | | | | | |
| Derby City | 840 | 10 | 710 | 8 | 8,780 | 16 | 10,950 | 20 |
| Derbyshire | 1,690 | 8 | 1,480 | 7 | 5,630 | 12 | 8,440 | 16 |
| Leicester City | 1,250 | 11 | 1,200 | 10 | 4,930 | 15 | 5,110 | 14 |
| Leicestershire | 1,210 | 6 | 1,080 | 6 | 3,410 | 7 | 4,450 | 9 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,310 | 6 | 1,130 | 5 | 8,720 | 17 | 8,500 | 18 |
| Rutland | 10 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 220 | 10 | 570 | 22 |
| Northamptonshire | 1,830 | 8 | 1,420 | 6 | 7,740 | 14 | 9,790 | 17 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,270 | 5 | 1,220 | 5 | 8,650 | 14 | 7,030 | 12 |
| City of Nottingham | 940 | 10 | 930 | 8 | 5,800 | 18 | 5,340 | 15 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | | | | | | | |
| East Riding | 500 | 6 | 620 | 6 | 3,200 | 16 | 4,090 | 16 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 1,510 | 14 | 1,330 | 14 | 2,380 | 17 | 3,420 | 20 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 660 | 10 | 660 | 10 | 2,010 | 17 | 3,240 | 26 |

*Number and proportion of 16-18 year olds and 18-24 year olds NEET by local authority*

| | *Connexions data* | | | | *Annual population survey (APS)* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | | *2006* | | *APS 2005* | | *APS 2006* | |
| | *16-18 year olds NEET*[1] | *Percentage 16-18 year olds NEET*[1] | *16-18 year olds NEET*[1] | *Percentage 16-18 year olds NEET*[1] | *18-24 year olds NEET*[1] | *Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET*[1] | *18-24 year olds NEET*[1] | *Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET*[1] |
| North Lincolnshire | 560 | 8 | 570 | 9 | 2,310 | 18 | 2,690 | 18 |
| Barnsley | 980 | 13 | 900 | 12 | 3,550 | 20 | 3,250 | 18 |
| Doncaster | 1,250 | 12 | 1,180 | 11 | 3,180 | 15 | 1,530 | 7 |
| Rotherham | 980 | 10 | 1,130 | 11 | 3,210 | 15 | 4,920 | 22 |
| Sheffield | 1,790 | 11 | 1,680 | 10 | 8,880 | 17 | 9,570 | 17 |
| Bradford | 1,880 | 12 | 1,560 | 10 | 8,390 | 20 | 8,760 | 20 |
| Calderdale | 650 | 10 | 640 | 10 | 2,000 | 16 | 2,670 | 20 |
| Kirklees | 1,430 | 10 | 1,420 | 10 | 4,560 | 14 | 7,470 | 22 |
| Leeds | 2,540 | 10 | 2,170 | 9 | 12,910 | 14 | 8,870 | 10 |
| Wakefield | 1,290 | 12 | 1,230 | 11 | 3,860 | 16 | 5,080 | 20 |
| York | 360 | 5 | 420 | 6 | 1,420 | 8 | 3,520 | 18 |
| North Yorkshire | 870 | 5 | 880 | 5 | 4,610 | 12 | 5,320 | 14 |
| *North West* | | | | | | | | |
| Cheshire | 1,350 | 6 | 1,260 | 5 | 5,470 | 10 | 3,440 | 7 |
| Warrington | 500 | 8 | 450 | 7 | 1,140 | 8 | 1,360 | 10 |
| Cumbria | 1,090 | 7 | 950 | 6 | 1,370 | 21 | 1,720 | 21 |
| Bolton | 1,140 | 11 | 1,170 | 13 | 4,290 | 17 | 4,260 | 16 |
| Bury | 560 | 8 | 550 | 8 | 2,425 | 17 | 2,610 | 19 |
| City of Manchester | 1,870 | 12 | 1,760 | 11 | 8,010 | 19 | 6,410 | 13 |
| Oldham | 710 | 7 | 750 | 9 | 3,450 | 16 | 5,150 | 26 |
| Rochdale | 800 | 10 | 720 | 12 | 3,950 | 22 | 4,450 | 24 |
| Salford | 720 | 10 | 750 | 10 | 2,890 | 15 | 3,750 | 20 |
| Stockport | 600 | 6 | 810 | 9 | 3,130 | 12 | 3,040 | 13 |
| Trafford | 490 | 6 | 490 | 7 | 1,730 | 10 | 3,200 | 18 |
| Tameside | 730 | 8 | 720 | 9 | 4,930 | 24 | 4,190 | 20 |
| Wigan | 1,160 | 10 | 1,140 | 10 | 6,400 | 26 | 6,160 | 24 |
| Halton | 510 | 11 | 540 | 12 | 2,210 | 22 | 1,910 | 16 |
| Knowsley | 700 | 12 | 690 | 14 | 2,730 | 20 | 3,140 | 24 |
| Liverpool | 2,080 | 12 | 2,040 | 13 | 8,370 | 17 | 8,210 | 17 |
| Sefton | 870 | 8 | 870 | 8 | 2,390 | 10 | 4,500 | 17 |
| St. Helens | 730 | 12 | 680 | 10 | 3,220 | 24 | 3,020 | 22 |
| Wirral | 1,180 | 10 | 1,210 | 10 | 3,910 | 18 | 4,470 | 20 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 640 | 11 | 600 | 9 | 3,020 | 24 | 2,740 | 21 |
| Blackpool | 650 | 12 | 620 | 9 | 2,060 | 17 | 3,110 | 25 |
| Lancashire | 3,100 | 8 | 2,820 | 8 | 12,740 | 14 | 14,320 | 15 |
| *North East* | | | | | | | | |
| County Durham | 2,100 | 13 | 2,060 | 13 | 5,500 | 19 | 4,050 | 13 |
| Northumberland | 940 | 10 | 980 | 10 | 2,080 | 11 | 2,890 | 16 |
| Darlington | 370 | 9 | 330 | 7 | 3,680 | 17 | 3,490 | 17 |
| Stockton on Tees | 720 | 10 | 610 | 10 | 2,850 | 18 | 3,250 | 20 |
| Middlesbrough | 880 | 16 | 870 | 14 | 2,590 | 18 | 3,590 | 25 |
| Hartlepool | 360 | 10 | 400 | 11 | 1,840 | 22 | 1,960 | 24 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 600 | 11 | 610 | 12 | 1,980 | 19 | 1,760 | 17 |
| Sunderland | 1,390 | 14 | 1,320 | 13 | 4,680 | 19 | 3,430 | 14 |
| Gateshead | 830 | 14 | 750 | 12 | 3,360 | 20 | 2,980 | 20 |
| Newcastle | 1,200 | 10 | 1,120 | 9 | 4,350 | 13 | 4,160 | 11 |
| North Tyneside | 710 | 11 | 700 | 11 | 2,730 | 17 | 2,970 | 22 |
| South Tyneside | 700 | 14 | 550 | 11 | 3,370 | 23 | 3,800 | 28 |

*Local labour force survey (LLFS)*

| | *LLFS 0102* | | *LLFS 0203* | | *LLFS 0304* | | *LLFS 0405* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *18-24 year olds NEET*[1] | *Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET*[1] | *18-24 year olds NEET*[1] | *Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET*[1] | *18-24 year olds NEET*[1] | *Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET*[1] | *18-24 year olds NEET*[1] | *Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET*[1] |
| *South East* | | | | | | | | |
| Bracknell Forest | 1,410 | 17 | 670 | 9 | 730 | 10 | 1,220 | 15 |
| Reading | 1,910 | 12 | 2,400 | 14 | 2,590 | 17 | 2,250 | 14 |

| | Local labour force survey (LLFS) | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | LLFS 01/02 | | LLFS 02/03 | | LLFS 03/04 | | LLFS 04/05 | |
| | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 1,230 | 13 | 1,610 | 16 | 1,200 | 12 | 1,400 | 17 |
| Slough | 1,610 | 12 | 1,410 | 13 | 2,100 | 19 | 1,980 | 16 |
| West Berkshire | 800 | 8 | 1,110 | 9 | 1,530 | 14 | 830 | 8 |
| Wokingham | 1,380 | 13 | 780 | 8 | 820 | 8 | 800 | 8 |
| Kent | 15,970 | 15 | 16,470 | 16 | 17,670 | 18 | 13,350 | 14 |
| Medway | 3,510 | 16 | 2,690 | 15 | 4,070 | 19 | 3,970 | 18 |
| Buckinghamshire | 3,070 | 9 | 4,520 | 12 | 4,290 | 13 | 5,600 | 15 |
| Milton Keynes | 1,780 | 9 | 2,060 | 11 | 3,130 | 15 | 2,140 | 12 |
| Oxfordshire | 5,120 | 10 | 4,890 | 10 | 4,520 | 8 | 2,360 | 5 |
| Portsmouth | 2,290 | 11 | 2,310 | 11 | 2,680 | 13 | 2,390 | 12 |
| Southampton | 3,030 | 9 | 4,050 | 12 | 3,230 | 11 | 3,130 | 9 |
| Isle of Wight | 1,640 | 21 | 1,710 | 19 | 1,250 | 15 | 1,250 | 15 |
| Hampshire | 8,270 | 10 | 8,570 | 10 | 13,230 | 15 | 10,210 | 11 |
| Surrey | 7,180 | 10 | 6,780 | 9 | 10,200 | 14 | 6,850 | 9 |
| Brighton and Hove | 2,380 | 9 | 3,460 | 12 | 2,370 | 9 | 3,350 | 13 |
| East Sussex | 3,720 | 12 | 3,690 | 13 | 4,430 | 14 | 4,020 | 13 |
| West Sussex | 3,130 | 6 | 5,700 | 11 | 7,670 | 16 | 7,240 | 15 |
| *London* | | | | | | | | |
| Camden | 3,430 | 17 | 3,010 | 12 | 3,030 | 16 | 2,960 | 15 |
| Islington | 3,510 | 18 | 3,640 | 20 | 4,330 | 23 | 3,990 | 22 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1,980 | 16 | 1,150 | 8 | 1,330 | 9 | 1,850 | 12 |
| Lambeth | 2,400 | 8 | 4,000 | 16 | 4,260 | 18 | 5,860 | 27 |
| Southwark | 4,400 | 18 | 4,870 | 20 | 7,020 | 24 | 5,970 | 24 |
| Wandsworth | 3,290 | 12 | 4,320 | 17 | 2,790 | 12 | 3,520 | 12 |
| Westminster[3] | 3,340 | 15 | 2,920 | 15 | 2,960 | 15 | 2,530 | 12 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,330 | 21 | 4,060 | 25 | 3,510 | 24 | 3,810 | 29 |
| Bexley | 2,070 | 13 | 2,510 | 13 | 1,600 | 9 | 1,680 | 9 |
| City of London[3, 4] | 7,310 | 16 | 5,040 | 11 | 5,400 | 11 | 6,490 | 14 |
| Greenwich | 3,020 | 17 | 3,330 | 20 | 6,090 | 28 | 4,620 | 25 |
| Hackney | 6,220 | 30 | 2,850 | 14 | 3,540 | 17 | 4,350 | 24 |
| Havering | 2,580 | 13 | 1,410 | 9 | 1,690 | 8 | 1,630 | 9 |
| Lewisham | 4,010 | 16 | 5,110 | 18 | 6,250 | 30 | 6,410 | 33 |
| Newham | 7,340 | 25 | 7,430 | 27 | 5,960 | 19 | 4,340 | 16 |
| Redbridge | 4,230 | 22 | 3,510 | 16 | 3,260 | 17 | 2,610 | 12 |
| Tower Hamlets[4] | 7,370 | 25 | 7,860 | 27 | 5,860 | 21 | 7,680 | 23 |
| Barnet | 2,410 | 8 | 3,460 | 13 | 4,950 | 17 | 6,240 | 19 |
| Enfield | 2,680 | 12 | 5,680 | 27 | 2,080 | 8 | 4,040 | 20 |
| Haringey | 5,320 | 22 | 4,420 | 26 | 5,130 | 29 | 5,950 | 27 |
| Waltham Forest | 4,170 | 18 | 5,010 | 22 | 3,990 | 21 | 4,880 | 21 |
| Bromley | 2,860 | 14 | 2,650 | 13 | 2,830 | 12 | 3,030 | 14 |
| Croydon | 4,630 | 16 | 5,520 | 17 | 3,160 | 10 | 4,290 | 13 |
| Kingston | 3,950 | 24 | 4,730 | 19 | 5,620 | 21 | 6,450 | 26 |
| Merton | 1,400 | 9 | 1,450 | 11 | 2,140 | 14 | 3,430 | 25 |
| Richmond | 1,010 | 9 | 1,040 | 10 | 1,440 | 15 | 1,620 | 12 |
| Sutton | 1,340 | 9 | 1,350 | 9 | 2,350 | 17 | 2,150 | 16 |
| Brent | 3,680 | 11 | 3,150 | 10 | 3,910 | 13 | 4,680 | 18 |
| Ealing | 4,840 | 20 | 3,340 | 10 | 4,030 | 13 | 3,660 | 12 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 2,090 | 11 | 2,390 | 11 | 4,390 | 18 | 2,440 | 13 |
| Harrow | 1,640 | 10 | 880 | 5 | 2,240 | 13 | 1,720 | 11 |
| Hillingdon | 2,240 | 11 | 1,970 | 10 | 1,900 | 10 | 4,110 | 18 |
| Hounslow | 2,210 | 12 | 2,170 | 12 | 3,180 | 15 | 3,970 | 17 |
| *East of England* | | | | | | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 3,960 | 14 | 2,410 | 8 | 2,850 | 9 | 2,780 | 8 |
| Luton | 2,820 | 16 | 3,610 | 21 | 3,060 | 18 | 3,110 | 21 |
| Cambridgeshire | 6,830 | 14 | 5,660 | 13 | 3,430 | 8 | 8,290 | 18 |
| Peterborough | 2,310 | 18 | 2,710 | 20 | 2,350 | 16 | 3,170 | 20 |
| Essex | 11,950 | 12 | 18,210 | 19 | 11,950 | 13 | 9,860 | 10 |

| | Local labour force survey (LLFS) | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | LLFS 01/02 | | LLFS 02/03 | | LLFS 03/04 | | LLFS 04/05 | |
| | 18-24 year olds NEET[1] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[1] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] |
| Thurrock | 1,430 | 13 | 1,570 | 13 | 1,870 | 16 | 1,610 | 15 |
| Southend | 2,760 | 21 | 1,900 | 17 | 1,540 | 12 | 1,970 | 19 |
| Hertfordshire | 8,410 | 11 | 7,220 | 10 | 10,170 | 14 | 9,150 | 12 |
| Norfolk | 8,770 | 15 | 7,250 | 13 | 6,320 | 11 | 7,460 | 12 |
| Suffolk | 9,000 | 19 | 5,400 | 13 | 6,640 | 1' | 5,420 | 12 |
| *South West* | | | | | | | | |
| Bournemouth | 1,260 | 8 | 1,210 | 8 | 1,050 | 8 | 1,140 | 7 |
| Dorset | 6,200 | 22 | 2,660 | 11 | 3,570 | 14 | 4,520 | 16 |
| Poole | 1,230 | 13 | 1,370 | 15 | 1,400 | 15 | 1,230 | 13 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly | 5,760 | 16 | 5,630 | 18 | 4,240 | 11 | 4,430 | 12 |
| Devon | 4,810 | 20 | 5,930 | 29 | 4,420 | 20 | 4,640 | 20 |
| Plymouth | 4,800 | 23 | 4,420 | 15 | 4,490 | 16 | 3,990 | 16 |
| Torbay | 1,660 | 20 | 1,090 | 12 | 1,010 | 13 | 2,020 | 23 |
| Gloucestershire | 4,350 | 11 | 5,380 | 14 | 4,100 | 10 | 5,020 | 12 |
| Somerset | 2,230 | 7 | 3,620 | 11 | 1,660 | 6 | 3,320 | 10 |
| Bath and NE Somerset | 1,380 | 8 | 1,150 | 6 | 1,690 | 11 | 1,740 | 11 |
| Bristol | 2,640 | 9 | 4,730 | 14 | 4,860 | 11 | 4,800 | 11 |
| North Somerset | 1,510 | 12 | 1,740 | 14 | 1,470 | 12 | 800 | 7 |
| South Gloucestershire | 1,490 | 7 | 1,930 | 9 | 1,780 | 8 | 2,290 | 12 |
| Swindon | 1,480 | 11 | 1,110 | 8 | 1,510 | 13 | 1,160 | 8 |
| Wiltshire | 1,310 | 5 | 2,310 | 9 | 3,380 | 11 | 2,080 | 7 |
| *West Midlands* | | | | | | | | |
| Birmingham | 23,600 | 25 | 19,700 | 19 | 21,190 | 20 | 18,930 | 20 |
| Solihull | 1,610 | 11 | 1,190 | 9 | 1,870 | 12 | 2,400 | 16 |
| Dudley | 7,450 | 18 | 8,160 | 20 | 10,950 | 30 | 10,640 | 27 |
| Sandwell | 3,870 | 18 | 4,700 | 22 | 6,350 | 25 | 6,960 | 26 |
| Walsall | 4,360 | 21 | 4,290 | 21 | 4,870 | 27 | 3,520 | 15 |
| Wolverhampton | 4,960 | 24 | 4,710 | 21 | 5,740 | 27 | 3,410 | 18 |
| Coventry | 3,840 | 14 | 4,300 | 15 | 4,590 | 13 | 4,870 | 16 |
| Warwickshire | 4,460 | 12 | 6,110 | 16 | 5,560 | 15 | 3,530 | 8 |
| Herefordshire | 930 | 9 | 1,850 | 17 | 1,300 | 12 | 850 | 10 |
| Worcestershire | 4,010 | 11 | 4,410 | 11 | 4,790 | 13 | 3,800 | 11 |
| Shropshire | 2,090 | 13 | 1,860 | 11 | 2,550 | 18 | 2,400 | 14 |
| Telford and the Wrekin | 1,730 | 16 | 2,130 | 15 | 2,290 | 15 | 2,220 | 15 |
| Staffordshire | 5,030 | 9 | 6,940 | 12 | 7,890 | 13 | 5,700 | 9 |
| Stoke on Trent | 3,390 | 15 | 3,670 | 19 | 3,410 | 16 | 3,870 | 17 |
| *East Midlands* | | | | | | | | |
| Derby City | 8,740 | 18 | 9,560 | 18 | 8,620 | 20 | 10,730 | 20 |
| Derbyshire | 5,100 | 12 | 6,130 | 15 | 3,650 | 7 | 5,330 | 10 |
| Leicester City | 4,500 | 15 | 5,850 | 17 | 8,010 | 23 | 6,790 | 17 |
| Leicestershire | 3,570 | 8 | 5,230 | 10 | 5,110 | 11 | 3,690 | 8 |
| Lincolnshire | 6,530 | 15 | 7,010 | 16 | 5,240 | 12 | 7,500 | 15 |
| Rutland | 360 | 21 | 190 | 11 | 330 | 14 | 360 | 12 |
| Northamptonshire | 7,060 | 13 | 5,590 | 13 | 5,240 | 10 | 5,920 | 11 |
| Nottinghamshire | 9,980 | 16 | 9,200 | 15 | 8,480 | 14 | 7,320 | 12 |
| City of Nottingham | 4,490 | 14 | 4,940 | 13 | 5,820 | 16 | 4,590 | 14 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | | | | | | | |
| East Riding | 2,340 | 14 | 2,820 | 14 | 1,620 | 9 | 2,180 | 10 |
| Kingston upon Hull | 1,060 | 7 | 1,720 | 10 | 690 | 4 | 660 | 4 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 3,320 | 26 | 2,870 | 26 | 2,770 | 22 | 2,590 | 24 |
| North Lincolnshire | 1,810 | 17 | 2,160 | 19 | 2,240 | 18 | 2,780 | 20 |
| Barnsley | 3,340 | 24 | 4,670 | 28 | 4,020 | 23 | 3,300 | 20 |
| Doncaster | 2,860 | 13 | 2,100 | 9 | 1,800 | 8 | 3,280 | 16 |
| Rotherham | 3,860 | 18 | 3,900 | 19 | 3,200 | 17 | 2,610 | 13 |

| | Local labour force survey (LLFS) | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | LLFS 01/02 | | LLFS 02/03 | | LLFS 03/04 | | LLFS 04/05 | |
| | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | 18-24 year olds NEET[2] | Percentage 18-24 year olds NEET[2] |
| Sheffield | 7,630 | 16 | 7,480 | 14 | 8,230 | 15 | 6,600 | 12 |
| Bradford | 9,880 | 24 | 10,420 | 23 | 9,130 | 21 | 7,900 | 16 |
| Calderdale | 2,620 | 19 | 2,260 | 15 | 3,450 | 26 | 2,770 | 22 |
| Kirklees | 5,850 | 18 | 7,300 | 24 | 6,120 | 21 | 4,880 | 15 |
| Leeds | 7,700 | 11 | 5,720 | 7 | 8,070 | 10 | 7,590 | 9 |
| Wakefield | 3,070 | 13 | 4,380 | 16 | 4,000 | 14 | 4,640 | 18 |
| York | 2,010 | 10 | 1,030 | 6 | 1,580 | 9 | 1,140 | 6 |
| North Yorkshire | 3,570 | 11 | 4,960 | 14 | 3,920 | 10 | 4,560 | 13 |
| *North West* | | | | | | | | |
| Cheshire | 7,310 | 16 | 5,040 | 11 | 5,400 | 11 | 6,490 | 14 |
| Warrington | 2,970 | 22 | 2,670 | 19 | 1,200 | 7 | 1,990 | 13 |
| Cumbria | 1,460 | 18 | 1,160 | 15 | 1,540 | 21 | 1,080 | 14 |
| Bolton | 3,180 | 16 | 2,710 | 13 | 4,170 | 18 | 2,480 | 11 |
| Bury | 2,720 | 18 | 2,580 | 17 | 1,570 | 12 | 2,990 | 21 |
| City of Manchester | 8,260 | 16 | 9,710 | 22 | 9,090 | 19 | 8,180 | 17 |
| Oldham | 4,160 | 23 | 4,500 | 25 | 4,430 | 26 | 5,150 | 27 |
| Rochdale | 2,570 | 18 | 3,840 | 22 | 3,850 | 23 | 4,010 | 22 |
| Salford | 4,640 | 22 | 3,370 | 16 | 3,920 | 20 | 4,110 | 25 |
| Stockport | 2,020 | 12 | 1,330 | 7 | 2,780 | 14 | 3,150 | 13 |
| Trafford | 1,690 | 11 | 2,820 | 15 | 1,890 | 11 | 1,910 | 11 |
| Tameside | 2,600 | 15 | 2,320 | 14 | 2,710 | 14 | 4,110 | 20 |
| Wigan | 4,670 | 20 | 4,070 | 15 | 4,670 | 18 | 5,170 | 21 |
| Halton | 2,570 | 32 | 2,210 | 25 | 2,270 | 19 | 2,410 | 23 |
| Knowsley | 3,420 | 29 | 2,740 | 25 | 1,930 | 15 | 2,540 | 19 |
| Liverpool | 8,940 | 19 | 10,080 | 22 | 9,500 | 21 | 9,460 | 20 |
| Sefton | 3,930 | 19 | 4,550 | 20 | 3,640 | 17 | 3,330 | 14 |
| St. Helens | 2,120 | 15 | 1,840 | 14 | 2,950 | 20 | 2,690 | 19 |
| Wirral | 2,880 | 15 | 3,820 | 17 | 4,820 | 20 | 4,740 | 21 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 2,630 | 22 | 2,690 | 24 | 1,930 | 16 | 3,020 | 24 |
| Blackpool | 1,910 | 17 | 1,700 | 16 | 1,800 | 17 | 1,380 | 14 |
| Lancashire | 12,950 | 15 | 9,500 | 11 | 12,530 | 14 | 13,430 | 15 |
| *North East* | | | | | | | | |
| County Durham | 2,930 | 12 | 4,300 | 16 | 3,840 | 14 | 4,060 | 13 |
| Northumberland | 3,420 | 16 | 4,360 | 22 | 3,600 | 16 | 3,240 | 15 |
| Darlington | 3,160 | 15 | 3,820 | 19 | 5,370 | 21 | 3,800 | 20 |
| Stockton on Tees | 2,060 | 14 | 3,700 | 24 | 3,820 | 25 | 2,670 | 18 |
| Middlesbrough | 2,960 | 25 | 3,090 | 25 | 3,170 | 22 | 3,440 | 23 |
| Hartlepool | 1,980 | 30 | 1,730 | 24 | 2,330 | 27 | 2,610 | 33 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 2,790 | 28 | 2,260 | 23 | 2,630 | 24 | 1,890 | 18 |
| Sunderland | 5,930 | 22 | 3,760 | 14 | 6,250 | 23 | 4,060 | 17 |
| Gateshead | 2,330 | 16 | 3,290 | 20 | 3,130 | 17 | 3,130 | 18 |
| Newcastle | 4,420 | 16 | 4,380 | 13 | 4,000 | 11 | 4,800 | 13 |
| North Tyneside | 3,790 | 23 | 2,100 | 16 | 2,320 | 18 | 2,340 | 13 |
| South Tyneside | 2,740 | 22 | 2,730 | 22 | 2,640 | 21 | 3,090 | 23 |

[1] The percentage of 16-18 year olds NEET relates to calendar age, and is the average between November and January.
[2] The percentage of 18-24 year olds NEET relates to academic age and is the average over a whole year.
[3] Data for City of London were included with Westminster in the APS and LLFS data.
[4] Data for City of London were included with Tower Hamlets in the Connexions data, 2005.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 27 November 2007*

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Equality

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for Women what consideration the Government gave to inclusion of matters relating to gender identity or gender expression in its definition of equality. [166344]

**Barbara Follett:** I refer the hon. Member to my written answer of 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1236W, which stated that the Government's vision of an equal society is one where there is opportunity for all and responsibility from all.

## WALES

### Comprehensive Spending Review

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the oral answers of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1172-77, on the comprehensive spending review and legislative competence, if he will place in the Library copies of the correspondence and paperwork exchanged with National Assembly for Wales Ministers which set out the specific instances and road schemes in Wales affected by clause 109 of the Local Transport Bill. [168942]

**Mr. Hain:** There has been no exchange of such correspondence between Ministers.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168602]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167219]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office does not record which manufacturers' software is used as all software currently used within the Wales Office is provided by the Ministry of Justice.

### Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people in his Department and its predecessors were paid over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167203]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167295]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167945]

**Mr. Hain:** Nil.

### Official Engagements: NAW Deputy First Minister

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how frequently he meets the Deputy First Minister of Wales; and on how many occasions he has done so since the conclusion of the All Wales Accord. [168312]

**Mr. Hain:** I have met the Deputy First Minister of Wales on several occasions since that date.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Flexible Working

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in his Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164327]

**Paul Goggins:** Within the Northern Ireland Office staff are expected to work conditioned hours, however there is a considerable amount of flexibility in the way staff are permitted to work. Flexible working time (that is, a flexible start and finish each day) is available to the majority of staff where operational/business needs permit.

In line with the Employment (NT) Order 2002 the Northern Ireland Office has processes in place to allow staff to request flexible working hours to enable them to balance their family and employment responsibilities. As decisions are made by the business area concerned the information on the number of staff who have applied to work flexible hours under this order is not collated centrally.

The following table shows the number of staff within the NIO who currently work reduced hours, job share or term time.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Reduced hours | 216 |
| Job share | 26 |
| Term time full-time | 13 |
| Term time part-time | 9 |
| Total number of staff | 2,074 |

## Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167223]

**Paul Goggins:** The NIO currently uses the following list of manufactures' software.

SAP
Oracle
iB Solutions
Croma Photobase
Sopra Newell and Budge
Computer Associates
Seagate
Dataflex
Adobe
Symantec
Microsoft
Tower
Livelink
Kofax
Netiq
Citrix
Commvault
HP
Altris
Websense
Firjan
Sophos
Sandersons
Real Asset Management plc.
Fluent Technology Ltd.
Business Objects

## Departmental Manpower

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165108]

**Paul Goggins:** In the main, staff are appointed to the Northern Ireland Office following successful application to Northern Ireland Civil Service competitions. Therefore figures relating to the number of staff who (i) applied for jobs or (ii) received interviews are not available. Table 1 shows the number of staff, in the age ranges specified, appointed to the Northern Ireland Office in 2007.

The Northern Ireland Office did run a recent competition to recruit information technology specialists. While to date no posts have been filled, details of applicants and the number of interviews can be seen in table 2.

*Table 1: Number of staff, in the age ranges specified, appointed to the Northern Ireland Office for the year 2007*

| Age | Temporary staff | Permanent staff | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 30-39 | 5 | 25 | 30 |
| 40-49 | 5 | 21 | 26 |
| 50-59 | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| 60-69 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | — | — | 66 |

*Table 2: Number of applicants, in the age ranges specified, for Information Technology posts in the Northern Ireland Office for the year 2007*

| Age | Number of applicants | Number of applicants interviewed |
|---|---|---|
| 30-39 | 13 | 9 |
| 40-49 | 5 | 1 |
| 50-59 | 2 | 1 |
| 60-69 | 0 | 0 |

## Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what entertainment or hospitality members of his Department's management board have received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164743]

**Mr. Woodward:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The list for 2007 is the first such list and will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

## Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in his Department earned over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167198]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

| | Number of staff receiving £100,000+ |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 1 |
| 1998 | 1 |
| 1999 | 1 |
| 2000 | 1 |
| 2001 | 2 |
| 2002 | 4 |
| 2003 | 3 |
| 2004 | 3 |
| 2005 | 3 |
| 2006 | 5 |
| 2007 | 6 |

## Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department. [165214]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office does not have any full-time equivalent staff responsible for brand management and marketing. However, from time to time, staff in various parts of the office are engaged in related activities, including maintaining and ensuring the application of corporate branding. Therefore a percentage of their time will be periodically devoted to brand management and marketing activities.

### Manpower: Government Departments

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163989]

**Mr. Woodward:** The National Statistics Public Sector employment figures for the second quarter of 2007 show that the NIO had 140 FTE Home Civil Servants in post. In addition to these staff the Department had 1,367 Northern Ireland Civil Servants in post for the same quarter (excluding its agencies and NDPBs).

The NIO's CSR07 settlement reduced the Department's administration cost budget by 5 per cent. year on year, from 2008-09 through to 2010-11. These administration cost reductions will be re-allocated to front line service delivery areas, and so may not have a direct effect on overall headcount numbers. The Department is currently finalising work to allocate its CSR07 settlement across all spending areas and it will then be in a position to establish headcount figures for the three CSR07 years. This information will be available in advance of the start of the 2008-09 financial year.

### Opinion Leader Research

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165259]

**Mr. Woodward:** The NIO has awarded no contracts to Opinion Leader Research since 1997.

### Police Service of Northern Ireland: Telephone Services

**Mrs. Iris Robinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many calls have been received by the Police Service of Northern Ireland's 0845 600 8000 line; how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions have resulted from information received on this line; and how much it has cost to operate this service in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [166726]

**Paul Goggins:** The number of calls made to the Police Service of Northern Ireland's telephone number for non-emergency calls, 0845 600 8000, in each of the last 12 months is set out in the following table.

| | *Number of calls to 0845 600 8000* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| November | 13,128 |
| December | 11,913 |
| *2007* | |
| January | 12,874 |
| February | 12,292 |
| March | 13,319 |
| April | 13,370 |
| May | 14,635 |
| June | 16,396 |
| July | 16,210 |
| August | 16,800 |
| September | 16,064 |
| October | 16,632 |

As figures are not held on the outcome of the calls, I am not able to supply information on the number of arrests and convictions that have resulted from the use of the line.

The total cost to the PSNI of operating their non-emergency number, 0845 600 8000, from November 2006 to October 2007 was £2,043.

This line allows people to access the PSNI quickly in non-emergency situations and helps to reduce the demand placed by inappropriate calls to '999'.

### Proscribed Organisations

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the security threat posed by Republican dissidents. [168484]

**Paul Goggins:** The latest IMC report assesses that dissident republicans continue to pose a threat. The recent gun attacks on police officers highlight the danger these groups still pose.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Energy: Summertime

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on UK domestic gas and electricity bills of maintaining British Summer Time in winter and introducing double British Summer Time in summer. [168762]

**Mr. McFadden:** We consider that the present situation is a satisfactory compromise between those who prefer lighter mornings and those who prefer lighter evenings and we are not convinced that a change to our wintertime and summertime arrangements would be in the best interests of the UK.

Portugal experimented with a move to central European time (1992-96) and we understand their Government concluded that there was insignificant energy saving to offset the negative impact of the change and reverted to Greenwich Mean Time.

### Nuclear Power

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the evidential basis is for the figure of 7.5 per cent. of Britain's total energy coming from nuclear sources, with reference to the Prime Minister's speech to the Worldwide Fund for Nature forum at the Foreign Press Association on 19 November. [167915]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In terms of energy inputs (i.e. the quantity of fuels used directly or converted into other forms of energy such as electricity or petroleum products) nuclear accounts for 7.5 per cent. of the UK's demand for primary fuels (rounding to the nearest 0.5 per cent.). The figures behind this percentage are as follows. They can be found in this Department's National Statistics publication, "Energy Trends, September 2007", Table 1.2:

| *Primary fuel input basis equivalent* | *Million tonnes of oil* |
|---|---|
| Inland consumption of nuclear electricity | 17.1 |
| Total inland energy consumption | 232.1 |

In terms of energy consumed, nuclear accounts for 19 per cent. of the electricity generated in the UK and electricity accounts for 18.5 per cent. of the energy used in the UK. Hence nuclear accounts for 3.5 per cent. of the energy used in the UK (19 per cent. of 18.5 per cent.).

### Post Offices: Closures

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether sub-postmasters whose post offices have been proposed for closure are permitted to speak publicly against that closure without putting their compensation package at risk. [163840]

**Mr. McFadden:** A sub-postmaster is able to respond to the consultation as much as any other member of the public and we would not look to reduce their compensation simply because they do not agree with the decision.

### Wind Power

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of overall energy needs is met by wind power in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. [168305]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department does not hold statistics for wind power generation in *(a)* the Ribble Valley or *(b)* at a county level. However, according to the latest statistics published in the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics, 2007 (DUKES), 1.1 per cent. of the electricity generated in the UK in 2006 was from onshore and offshore wind, up from 0.7 per cent. in 2005. The corresponding percentage for *(c)* England is not yet available for 2006, but in 2005 it was 0.2 per cent.

DUKES can be accessed online at:

www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/dukes/page39771.html

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Ministerial Statements

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Leader of the House on how many occasions Ministers gave oral statements on the introduction of Government consultation papers in each of the last five years. [168625]

**Helen Goodman:** This information is not held centrally in the form asked for. In the last five calendar years there have been a total of 350 oral statements made to the House.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 82 |
| 2004 | 75 |
| 2005 | 55 |
| 2006 | 69 |
| 2007 | 70 |

The content of these oral statements is available as a matter of public record.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Finance

**Mr. Marshall:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate has been made of the monetary value of the accommodation, facilities and services provided to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for its headquarters in 7 Millbank in each of the last five years; and what the figure is expected to be in 2007-08. [168346]

**Nick Harvey:** The resource cost of accommodation, facilities and services used by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for its international secretariat in 7 Millbank is estimated to have been around £150,000 per annum since 2002-03. A similar cost is expected in 2007-08.

### Influenza: Vaccination

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether doses of the antiviral drug Tamiflu have been purchased by the House authorities for use by their staff in the event of an influenza pandemic. [168379]

**Nick Harvey:** No doses of the antiviral drug Tamiflu have been purchased by the House authorities for use

by their staff in the event of an influenza pandemic. There is, however, a project in place to co-ordinate and refresh the House's business continuity and disaster recovery plans. Flu pandemic planning is included in the scenarios that are being considered and arrangements are commensurate with the national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic.

### Medical Equipment

**Mr. Keetch:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when defibrillators were installed at the Palace of Westminster; how many times they have been used; and if he will make a statement. [168637]

**Nick Harvey:** Defibrillators were installed in the Palace of Westminster in 2000, and introduced in other parliamentary buildings in 2002. They have been used six times to date.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Standards

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public service agreement targets were set in the latest Comprehensive Spending Review for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department has responsibility. [166657]

**James Purnell:** Within the new performance framework announced as part of the comprehensive spending review, all public service agreements (PSAs) will be cross-governmental. DCMS will act as lead department for PSA22, to

> "deliver a successful Olympic Games and Paralympic Games with a sustainable legacy and get more children and young people taking part in high-quality PE and school sport".

In addition, DCMS will contribute to the following PSAs led by other Government Departments:

Raise the productivity of the UK economy (PSA1)

Improve the health and well-being of children and young people (PSA12)

Increase the number of children and young people on the path to success (PSA14)

Address the disadvantage that individuals experience because of their gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief (PSA15)

Increase long-term housing supply and affordability (PSA20)

Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities (PSA21)

Copies of the delivery agreements underpinning these PSAs have been placed in the House Library and are available on HM Treasury's website.

### Gun Sports: Olympic Games 2012

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he last had a meeting to discuss the issue of Olympic target pistol shooters; and if he will make a statement. [168216]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* I have not had a meeting to discuss the issue of Olympic target pistol shooters. This issue is being taken forward by colleagues at the Home Office who have recently secured agreement in principle from the Ministry of Defence on use of their ranges by a small squad of elite pistol shooters. To enable this to take place, the Home Secretary will need to use her powers under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 and I understand she has written to the First Minister for Scotland about the proposed arrangements and to establish whether he intends to exercise his powers in respect of Scotland.

### Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167935]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Neither the Department for Culture, Media and Sport nor our Agency (the Royal Parks) provide private health insurance for employees.

We provide information on two health care schemes available for civil servants to our employees (Benenden Healthcare and CS Healthcare), which they can join at their own cost.

### Legacy Lives Conference

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 106W, on the Legacy Lives conference, what UK Sport's involvement is in the 2008 Legacy Lives conference in Barbados; and at what cost to the public purse. [168516]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey) on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 240W.

UK Sport is an international partner of the Legacy Lives 2008 conference. As the UK agency for World Class Events UK Sport is providing £30,000 to support the 2008 conference.

Supporting Legacy Lives is part of an ongoing strategy to promote greater knowledge and debate about the legacy benefits that arise from public investment in major sporting events.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial information is regularly supplied to him by the *(a)* London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and *(b)* Olympic Delivery Authority and how frequently it is supplied. [165426]

**Tessa Jowell:** I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

The *(a)* London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and *(b)* Olympic Delivery Authority provide me and the Olympic Board with monthly financial updates of their spend to date against their respective budgets.

## TRANSPORT

### Aviation: Lee on Solent, Daedalus Airfield

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps taken by the management of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency led to the denial of access to Lee on Solent Aerodrome to the local community and general aviation; and if she will make a statement; [168236]

(2) what discussions the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has had with *(a)* Hampshire Police Authority and *(b)* others on the closing of Daedalus airfield to (i) general aviation and (ii) the local community; and if she will make a statement. [168520]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The airfield at Daedalus is leased to and operated by the Hampshire Police Authority, which is, as operator, responsible for its safety. As a user of the airfield, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has had regular discussions with Hampshire Police.

Solicitors acting for the Lee Flying Association recently wrote to a number of parties, including the MCA, threatening to bring judicial review proceedings in respect of the recent decision of, I understand, the Hampshire Police Authority to close the airfield to general aviation due to safety concerns. The Hampshire Police have now suspended that decision for 28 days.

The Government are currently considering the situation and in the circumstances, it would be inappropriate and premature for me to say any more at this stage.

### Aviation: Medical Equipment

**Mr. Keetch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations cover the carrying of defibrillators on civilian passenger airlines flying in and out of UK airports; and if she will make a statement. [168638]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are no regulations requiring the mandatory carriage of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) although emergency medical kits are required on all long distance flights. Many UK airlines do carry AEDs on a voluntary basis and this information is generally available on their websites.

### Cycling

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions she has had with local authorities on measures to encourage cycling since her appointment as Secretary of State for Transport; [164623]

(2) what meetings she has had with representatives of the cycling community since her appointment as Secretary of State for Transport. [164632]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Both Ministers and officials regularly meet with representatives of the cycling community and local authorities to discuss a wide range of issues, including how to encourage cycling.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what entertainment or hospitality members of her Department's management board have received in each of the last three financial years; and if she will make a statement. [164745]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

### Departmental Orders and Regulations

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many regulations her Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked in the last 12 months. [167085]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In the 12 months commencing 1 October 2006 the Department for Transport produced 142 general statutory instruments and 1,530 local statutory instruments.

The number of statutory instruments which were revoked or became spent during this period could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Property

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by her Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164365]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The data requested are not in all cases readily distinguishable from other building costs without incurring disproportionate costs. However, the information, where available for the properties occupied by the Department, is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 21,251,182 |
| 2005-06 | 19,765,075 |
| 2004-05 | 9,803,969 |
| 2003-04 | 7,773,554 |
| 2002-03 | 7,702,635 |

### Eurostar

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions she has had with Network Rail on the timetable for future use of the former Eurostar platforms at London Waterloo; [167663]

(2) when she expects South West Trains to begin running the first commuter services from the former Eurostar platforms at London Waterloo; and what timetable she envisages for the use of the remaining platforms. [167865]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Ownership of Waterloo International transfers to the Department at the end of March 2008 following Eurostar's de-commissioning of the facility as an international station. The Department is currently working closely with Network Rail and Stagecoach South West Trains (the train operating company) to finalise the design and costs associated with the partial conversion of Waterloo International to accommodate some domestic passenger services. Works on site are expected to commence soon after the station transfers to the Department and will take several months to complete. Services could then operate into and out of Platform 20 of Waterloo International from the start of the timetable change date in December 2008.

Options to make use of all five platforms are being assessed by the Department and Network Rail as part of the medium term proposals to deliver the Department's strategy for providing additional capacity as set out in its White Paper on Delivering a Sustainable Railway which was published in July 2007.

The medium term proposals would require significant infrastructure alterations at Waterloo. Additionally, it would be linked to the procurement of additional rolling stock to lengthen trains. The timescale for implementation is likely to be around 2012-14.

### Fixed Penalties: Appeals

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many recorded challenges against penalty charge notices there were in each region in each of the last five years; and how many of these were successful. [164649]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The information is not held by the Department.

Information about the number of appeals against parking penalty charge notices in England and Wales is collected by the National Parking Adjudication Service (NPAS) outside London and by the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service (PATAS) inside London. The information on those websites is not presented by regions.

The websites are:

http://www.parking-appeals.gov.uk/about/AnReport.asp

http://www.parkingandtrafficappeals.gov.uk/annualreports.htm

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many recorded challenges against penalty charge notices there were in each local authority area in each of the last five years; and how many of these were successful. [164650]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** This information is not held by the Department.

Information on the number of appeals against parking penalty charge notices in England and Wales is collected by the National Parking Adjudication Services (NPAS) outside London and by the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service (PATAS) inside London. The NPAS and PATAS figures are published in their annual reports and can be downloaded from the following website addresses:

http://www.parking-appeals.gov.uk/about/AnReport.asp.

http://www.parkingandtrafficappeals.gov.uk/annualreports.htm.

### Minibuses: Licensing

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her Department has had with the Department for Children, Schools and Families on the interpretation of new driving licence regulations for minibus drivers with post-1997 licences; and if she will make a statement. [168565]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department has had extensive discussions with the Department for Children, Schools and Families previously the Department for Education and Skills. As a result guidance on the options available for incidental driving of minibuses was issued in April 2006.

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultations took place prior to the implementation of new regulations in respect of minibuses for drivers with post-1977 licences; and if she will make a statement. [168713]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The second European Council Directive (No. 91/439/EEC) introduced higher standards for drivers of passenger carrying vehicles. The Department consulted during 1994 on the "Implementation of the Second EC Directive on the Driving Licence" that introduced changes to the driving of minibuses.

### Road Traffic: Schools

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Education on measures to reduce traffic generated by the school run since her appointment as Secretary of State for Transport. [164625]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Secretary of State for Transport met the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families earlier this month to discuss how the two Departments might encourage more children to travel to school by bus, cycling or walking and thereby reduce traffic generated by the school run.

The Department for Transport and Department for Children, Schools and Families have been working together for several years now to reduce traffic generated by the school run and in 2003 launched our joint 'Travelling to School' project, setting out how we want all schools in England to develop an approved school travel plan by 2010 in order to reduce car use for journeys to and from school and to allow many more children to take regular exercise. At the end of March 2007 more than 14,000 schools (56 per cent.) already had an approved plan and we are on target for all schools to have such a plan by 2010.

The 2006 National Travel Survey suggests that the proportion of children travelling by car has now started to fall. 32 per cent. of children age five to 16 travelled to school by car in both 2004 and 2005 but this has fallen to 30 per cent. in 2006.

The Department for Transport and Department for Children, School and Families continue to work together to make further progress.

### Roads: Wales

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which roads in Wales her Department defines as trunk roads for the purposes of the provisions relating to road-charging schemes in the Local Transport Bill. [168622]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** In clause 109 of the Local Transport Bill, "Welsh trunk road" is defined as a road for which the Welsh Ministers are the traffic authority (within the meaning of section 121A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984).

### Transport: Heavy Goods Vehicles

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has for trials of larger and heavier lorries on UK roads. [167074]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There are no plans to trial larger and heavier goods vehicles in the UK. The Department has commissioned a desk study into the issues surrounding longer and heavier goods vehicles, but the purpose of this is not to advise on whether to allow trials, rather it is to better inform any future decisions.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

### Absent Voting

**Angela Watkinson:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what discussions the Electoral Commission has had on measures to improve the efficiency and security of postal votes. [167996]

**Peter Viggers:** The Electoral Commission advises me that it has been involved in extensive discussions on measures to improve the efficiency and security of postal votes. These have taken place at pre and post-election seminars with local authorities and with police and other relevant bodies, including the Royal Mail and the Ministry of Justice.

## JUSTICE

### Asylum: Crime

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many asylum seekers convicted of crimes are being held in each prison in England and Wales. [167716]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on the numbers of asylum seekers who are held in custody is not held centrally and would involve detailed cross referencing of BIA case files with Prison Service records to ensure accuracy. As a result, the information required to answer this question cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Computer Misuse Act 1990

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* convictions obtained for offences under the Computer Misuse Act 1990 in 2006. [167115]

**Maria Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker) on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-68W.

Information for 2006 will be available shortly.

### Crime: Firearms

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted for possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [165680]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on the number of persons found guilty at all courts of offences for possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area for the years 1997 to 2005 can be found in the following table.

Information for 2006 will be available shortly.

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts for possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area for the years 1997 to 2005*[1, 2, 3, 4]

| *Force* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 18 | 32 | 6 | 9 | 27 | 15 | 20 | 18 | 25 |
| Bedfordshire | 14 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 6 |
| Cambridgeshire | 8 | 17 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 4 | 3 |
| Cheshire | 8 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 20 | 11 |
| City of London | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Cleveland | 7 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 11 | 13 |
| Cumbria | 2 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Derbyshire | 4 | 6 | 13 | 12 | 5 | 14 | 6 | 15 | 17 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 16 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 13 | 16 | 15 | 12 |
| Dorset | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| Durham | 5 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 11 | 14 |
| Essex | 29 | 37 | 22 | 22 | 15 | 25 | 18 | 29 | 22 |
| Gloucestershire | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 6 |
| Greater Manchester | 53 | 100 | 57 | 55 | 57 | 51 | 55 | 115 | 108 |
| Hampshire | 18 | 18 | 18 | 15 | 9 | 21 | 16 | 15 | 28 |
| Hertfordshire | 11 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 23 |
| Humberside | 4 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 14 | 17 |

*Number of persons found guilty at all courts for possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area for the years 1997 to 2005*[1, 2, 3, 4]

| *Force* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kent | 13 | 20 | 11 | 22 | 29 | 18 | 22 | 18 | 11 |
| Lancashire | 10 | 32 | 12 | 19 | 17 | 11 | 15 | 22 | 27 |
| Leicestershire | 18 | 29 | 15 | 26 | 20 | 13 | 16 | 17 | 17 |
| Lincolnshire | 2 | 6 | 10 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Merseyside | 24 | 31 | 20 | 14 | 18 | 19 | 25 | 54 | 68 |
| Metropolitan Police | 238 | 270 | 221 | 173 | 224 | 257 | 297 | 268 | 302 |
| Norfolk | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 12 | 9 |
| North Yorkshire | 5 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 3 |
| Northamptonshire | 5 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 7 |
| Northumbria | 33 | 43 | 43 | 32 | 40 | 26 | 45 | 38 | 38 |
| Nottinghamshire | 12 | 20 | 12 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 28 | 23 | 27 |
| South Yorkshire | 18 | 24 | 22 | 19 | 11 | 17 | 21 | 23 | 27 |
| Staffordshire[3] | 8 | 8 | 7 | [3]— | 6 | 16 | 8 | 15 | 13 |
| Suffolk | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Surrey | 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| Sussex | 8 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 11 | 9 | 14 | 11 | 5 |
| Thames Valley | 30 | 30 | 23 | 15 | 11 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 22 |
| Warwickshire | 9 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| West Mercia[4] | 9 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 6 |
| West Midlands | 84 | 92 | 87 | 74 | 71 | 79 | 66 | 72 | 69 |
| West Yorkshire | 33 | 72 | 55 | 36 | 33 | 38 | 33 | 52 | 51 |
| Wiltshire | 1 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 3 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Gwent | 0 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| North Wales | 6 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| South Wales | 8 | 9 | 16 | 11 | 17 | 11 | 18 | 21 | 24 |
| England and Wales | 790 | 1,044 | 812 | 720 | 757 | 795 | 899 | 1,050 | 1,084 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[4] Includes the following statutes:
The Firearms Act 1968, sections 5(1)(a), 5(1)(b), 5(1)(c), 5(1)(ab), 5(1)(ad), 5(1)(ae), 5(1)(af), 5(1)(aba) and Sch 6, 5(l)(ac), 5(1A)(a), 5(1A)(b) and Sch 6, 5(1A)(c), 5(1A)(d), 5(1A)(e), 5(1A)(f), 5(1A)(g).
*Source:*
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

## Law: Wales

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he is taking steps to encourage the development of a distinct Welsh legal system. [168631]

**Mr. Wills:** The Government are committed to enhancing the legislative competence of the National Assembly for Wales through transferring powers by either framework powers in Westminster Bills or through Orders in Council as provided for in the Government of Wales Act 2006. But increasing the legislative competence of the National Assembly for Wales will not establish a separate Welsh legal system.

## Mayors' Community Payback Scheme

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many local authorities have participated in the Mayors' Community Payback Scheme. [167554]

**Mr. Hanson:** We do not collect this information centrally but telephone inquiries indicate that of the 42 probation areas in England and Wales 36 have established Mayors' Community Payback work projects and a total of 63 projects sponsored by mayors are planned, under way or completed. The Mayors' Community Payback Scheme was launched this year to promote public awareness of the significant amount of unpaid work done by offenders on community sentences that benefits local communities and makes reparation for offenders' crimes.

## Office of the Information Commissioner: Finance

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget was allocated to the Office of the Information Commissioner for *(a)* the 2007-08 financial year and *(b)* each of the preceding two financial years. [167983]

**Mr. Wills:** The grant in aid allocated to the Information Commissioner's Office for each of the last three financial years has been as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 5,050,000 |
| 2006-07 | 5,550,000 |
| 2005-06 | 5,100,000 |

The grant is paid to cover only the Commissioner's freedom of information responsibilities. His data protection work is currently funded by notification fees

paid by data controllers under section 26 of the Data Protection Act 1998, which his office retains with the agreement of HM Treasury. In 2006-07, this was £10,200,000.

### Penalty Notices

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what terms of reference have been established for the review of penalty notices for disorder; and when this review is expected to conclude. [167551]

**Maria Eagle:** Work is currently under way to identify opportunities, processes and best practice to improve the payment of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs), and subsequently when they are not paid, and registered as fines, the payment of those fines. This work is expected to conclude in spring 2008.

A review of practice across police forces for PNDs was carried out by OCJR. This was published in March 2006 and is available at:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/policing20.htm.

The purpose of the review was to establish best practice in the use of PNDs and to develop consistency, better management and control of the PND scheme.

### Police: Wales

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answers of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 30W, on police: Wales, and 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 975-6W, on prison officers: dismissal, for what reason the number of dismissals in the first answer differs from the number of reasons for dismissals in the second answer for the years 2005 and 2007. [168795]

**Mr. Hanson:** The discrepancy in the number of dismissals reported in the answer of 12 November and the number of dismissals for which reasons were given in the answer of 21 November was due to a difference between the local and central records held at Her Majesty's prison and young offenders institution Parc. The correct figures were those given in the answer of 12 November. I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

### Prisoners: Food

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average daily cost to the public purse was of food for each prisoner in the most recent period for which figures are available. [168206]

**Mr. Hanson:** For 2006-07, the last full financial year for which figures are available, the average public sector Prison Service daily food cost per prisoner was £1.97.

### Prisoners: Sentencing

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have completed their tariff and remain in prison. [167617]

**Mr. Hanson:** Complete information on the total numbers of all life and other indeterminate sentence prisoners held in custody beyond their tariff period is not currently available centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. However within the Public Protection Unit of the National Offender Management Service, the Pre-Release Section (PRS) maintains a limited database on those offenders sentenced to Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP). This indicates that, as at 31 October 2007, 428 such offenders were being held in prison beyond their tariff expiry date.

A new database for the whole of the Public Protection Unit is currently in development. The new database will allow, among other things, information to be recorded accurately relating to the tariff, Parole Board reviews and release of all life and indeterminate sentence prisoners. This new database is not likely to be fully operational until the early part of next year as it will be necessary to migrate core information and fully test the system before it goes live.

### Probation Officers: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full or part-time probation officers there were in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [167891]

**Maria Eagle:** Information is not available for the full period requested. Data collected prior to April 2003 were collected by Home Office RDS unit and were not broken down into probation areas. The following table shows full-time equivalent (FTE) figures as at 31 December for each year and relates to Essex probation area in its entirety as information is not collected for districts within probation areas.

The reporting mechanism used within the service means that it is not possible at probation area level to extract numbers pertaining to specific staff groups. The information is broken down as operational and support staff between 2003 and 2005. In addition, in 2006, the Offender Management model was adopted across the National Probation Service and the collection of work force information was modified to reflect this change. Consequently, the information is not directly comparable with previous years.

*Staff in post in Essex probation area 2003-06*

| *Job group* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Operational staff | 331.7 | 347.0 | 339.1 | — |
| Support staff | 67.4 | 85.7 | 136.7 | — |
| Offender Management | — | — | — | 156.4 |
| Interventions | — | — | — | 90.4 |
| Other agencies/services | — | — | — | 54.5 |
| Corporate services | — | — | — | 172.5 |
| Total staff in post | 399.1 | 432.7 | 475.8 | 473.8 |

### Reoffenders

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of offenders sentenced to custody had already served *(a)* a custodial sentence and *(b)* a community sentence in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [168501]

**Mr. Hanson:** Information on offenders' previous sentences does not form part of our standard analysis of criminal histories. The most recent available figures for the previous criminal history of offenders sentenced to custody for indictable offences, which detail number of previous convictions and cautions, are given in the "Sentencing Statistics 2005" publication which is available in the House of Commons Library and can be found online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0307.pdf

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of recorded crimes committed were committed by offenders who had previously served *(a)* a prison sentence and *(b)* a community sentence in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [168502]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is not available as a suspect is not identified for every crime committed. The most relevant available data relate to those sentenced for indictable offences. There are tables published in "Sentencing Statistics 2005" which detail numbers of previous convictions and cautions of those sentenced but do not show what disposals were given for the previous convictions. The publication is available in the House of Commons Library and can be found online at;

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0307.pdf

### Reviews

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the Ministry of Justice review. [168499]

**Mr. Straw:** The review is continuing. As I told the then Constitutional Affairs Select Committee in oral evidence on 9 October 2007, I will inform Parliament of the findings when the work of the review is complete.

### Simple Speedy Summary Justice Scheme

**Mr. Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated cost of savings for the Simple Speedy Summary Justice scheme is. [167564]

**Maria Eagle:** CJSSS is primarily about making the criminal justice system more efficient by reducing unnecessary hearings and the time taken to deal with cases in the magistrates courts. Improving the speed and effectiveness of magistrates courts could produce net discounted benefits for the criminal justice system worth approximately £137.4 million over 10 years.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of serving military personnel in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force were (i) single, (ii) married without children, (iii) married with children, (iv) divorced without children and (v) divorced with children at the latest date for which figures are available. [165792]

**Derek Twigg:** The following tables show the number and percentage of UK regular forces in each service who were single, married and divorced at the latest date for which figures are available.

Figures relating to dependent children are available only for Army Other Ranks.

Due to the way marital status was recorded in personnel databases, Naval service figures for married personnel do not include those married personnel not in receipt of a married person's allowance, while single and divorced personnel cannot be shown separately.

Figures are shown at the latest date prior to the introduction of the new Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system for each service. Information relating to marital status is no longer held centrally, following the phased implementation of the JPA system.

*Naval Service[1] at 1 October 2006*

| | *Total* | *Percentage* | *Officers* | *Percentage* | *Other Ranks* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Total* | 38,940 | 100.0 | 7,630 | 100.0 | 31,310 | 100.0 |
| *Single* | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *Married* | 16,580 | 42.6 | 4,740 | 62.2 | 11,840 | 37.8 |
| Without children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| With children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *Divorced* | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Without children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| With children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

[1] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines Army at 1 March 2007.

*Army at 1 March 2007*

| | *Total* | *Percentage* | *Officers* | *Percentage* | *Other Ranks* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Total* | 106,200 | 100.0 | 14,680 | 100.0 | 91,530 | 100.0 |
| *Single* | 55,470 | 52.2 | 5,420 | 37.0 | 50,040 | 54.7 |

*Army at 1 March 2007*

| | Total | Percentage | Officers | Percentage | Other Ranks | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Married* | 47,460 | 44.7 | 8,900 | 60.6 | 38,560 | 42.1 |
| Without children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 11,760 | 12.8 |
| With children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 26,800 | 29.3 |
| *Divorced* | 3,270 | 3.1 | 350 | 2.4 | 2,920 | 3.2 |
| Without children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,220 | 1.3 |
| With children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 1,700 | 1.9 |

*RAF at 1 March 2006*

| | Total | Percentage | Officers | Percentage | Other Ranks | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Total* | 48,950 | 100.0 | 10,330 | 100.0 | 38,620 | 100.0 |
| *Single* | 18,960 | 38.7 | 3,070 | 29.7 | 15,890 | 41.2 |
| *Married* | 27,990 | 57.2 | 6,910 | 66.9 | 21,080 | 54.6 |
| Without children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| With children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| *Divorced* | 1,990 | 4.1 | 340 | 3.3 | 1,640 | 4.3 |
| Without children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| With children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

n/a denotes not available.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place a copy of the Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team Report (2007) in the Library. [167177]

**Des Browne:** Yes. I shall arrange for a copy of the Chief of the General Staffs Briefing Team Spring 2007 report to be placed in the Library of the House.

### Armed Forces: Compensation

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme have been turned down because of failure to comply with the time limit in each year since the scheme was set up. [162661]

**Derek Twigg:** No applications under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme have been turned down because of failure to comply with the time limits set by the scheme.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms he uses to assess the condition of the fabric of married quarters over time. [165871]

**Derek Twigg:** We assess the condition of the fabric of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) against a number of different factors which cover the condition of wall finish, roofs, chimneys, windows, guttering and ventilation.

This assessment is part of a wider assessment of condition covering 102 attributes which are organised into eight categories (Health and Safety, Sanitary, Kitchen, Energy efficiency, Building Fabric, Electrical, Security and Bedroom Standard).

Deficit points are awarded for the extent of defects present for each element of the building fabric and these are broken down into minor (typically between 1 and 2 deficit points), medium (typically between 3 and 6 deficit points) and major defects (typically between 7 and 12 deficit points). The overall number of deficit points is used to determine the condition of the accommodation and the charge that will be applied.

*Building fabric defects*

| Standard | Minimum | Maximum |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0 | 10 |
| 2 | 11 | 20 |
| 3 | 21 | 35 |
| 4 | 36 | and over |

SFA properties are surveyed for condition on a four yearly basis or when an upgrade to the property has occurred.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to release void married quarters in advance of the cessation of the project sharing agreement with Annington Homes in November 2011. [165872]

**Derek Twigg:** The decision to dispose of surplus MOD housing stock is based solely on the military requirement. If the services no longer require houses at a particular site in England or Wales then the MOD hand the properties back to Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL).

## Departmental Coordination

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department had with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about the contents of the Foreign Secretary's recent Bruges speech prior to its delivery. [168564]

**Des Browne:** In line with the Ministerial Code, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office routinely consult other interested Departments, including the MOD, in the preparation of speeches and public statements.

## Departmental Land

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what planning applications in connection with wind farms his Department has objected to since October 2005; what the reason for each objection was; and what the outcome of each application has been. [166990]

**Derek Twigg:** Since October 2005 the Ministry of Defence has objected to 28 applications (under both Town and Country Planning legislation and the Electricity Act) for wind turbines. These are detailed in the attached table, together with the reasons for objection and the comment status of each planning application. It should be noted that the majority of cases are pending or subject to a public inquiry.

| *Site name* | *Planning/consenting authority* | *Reason for MoD objection* | *Status* | *Comment* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bruxiehill | Aberdeenshire Council | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Pending | — |
| Lotus | South Norfolk District Council | Interference with air defence (AD) and air traffic control (ATC) radar | Refused | — |
| Swaffham Extension | Breckland Council | Interference with air defence (AD) and air traffic control (ATC) radar | Pending | — |
| Hare Hill | East Ayrshire Council | Unacceptable restriction on operational low flying training | Pending | — |
| Broom bank | Highland Council | Interference with Precision Approach Radar (PAR) | Refused | Developer wants to appeal by written statements, the council wants a hearing. The reporters unit to decide which form of appeal will go ahead. |
| Premier Foods | South Holland District Council | Interference with air traffic control (ATC) Radar | Pending | — |
| Andershaw | South Lanarkshire Council | Unacceptable restriction on operational low flying training | Pending | — |
| Wryde Croft | Peterborough City Council | Interference with air traffic control (ATC) Radar | Pending | — |
| Aultmore | The Moray Council | Interference with air traffic control (ATC) Radar | Pending | — |
| Skelmonae | Aberdeenshire Council | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Pending | — |
| Balquindachy | Aberdeenshire Council | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Pending | — |
| McCains Foods | Fenland District Council | Interference with air traffic control (ATC) Radar | Granted | Turbines have been constructed. The MOD is considering the available options to ensure its interests are protected. |
| Roos | East Riding Council | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Refused | — |
| Monkwith | East Riding Council | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Refused | — |
| Withernwick | East Riding Council | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Application withdrawn | — |
| Crow Holt | Basset Law District Council | Interference with air traffic control (ATC) Radar | Refused | MOD objection was lifted during the public inquiry when the developer agreed to purchase a new Instrument Landing System for RAF Waddington |
| MSD Cramlington | Blyth Valley Borough Council | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Refused | Appeal lodged; hearing date yet to be confirmed. |
| Aesica | Blyth Valley Borough Council | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Refused | Appeal withdrawn by the developer. |
| Wandylaw | Berwick-Upon- Tweed Council | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Refused | — |
| Sheringham Shoal | DBERR | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Pending | — |
| Lincs | DBERR | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Pending | — |

| Site name | Planning/consenting authority | Reason for MoD objection | Status | Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gathercauld | Fife Council | Interference with air traffic control (ATC) Radar | Pending | — |
| Ray | DBERR | Interference with air traffic control (ATC) Radar | Public inquiry | — |
| Green Rig | Tyndale council | Interference with air traffic control (ATC) Radar | Public inquiry | — |
| Steadings | DBERR | Interference with air traffic control (ATC) Radar | Public inquiry | — |
| Middlemoor | DBERR | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Public inquiry | — |
| Fallago Rig | Scottish Executive | Interference with air defence (AD) radar | Public inquiry | — |
| Limmer Hill | Scottish Executive | Unacceptable restriction on operational low flying training | | — |

### Departmental Manpower

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165112]

**Derek Twigg:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167337]

**Derek Twigg:** Between 20 November 2006 and 19 November 2007, the Ministry of Defence Directorate of Public Relations spent £82,805 on corporate branding and identity.

Accurate information on how much Defence agencies, top level budget areas, trading funds, joint headquarters, single service commands and military units may have spent on managing their corporate brands is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167244]

**Derek Twigg:** The approximate number of UK based civilian staff seconded to and from the Department since 2002 is shown in the following table.

| | Seconded to the Department | Seconded from the Department |
|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 8 | 97 |
| 2003 | 10 | 129 |
| 2004 | 8 | 144 |
| 2005 | 14 | 146 |
| 2006 | 5 | 125 |
| 2007 to date | 12 | 103 |

The other information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Ex-servicemen: Warrington

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans resident in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* Warrington South have applied for their Veterans Day badge. [167130]

**Derek Twigg:** The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency can confirm, based on postcode details of applicants, that a total of 1,339 veterans' lapel badges have been issued to residents in the Warrington area. Unfortunately we are unable to distinguish which applications are from Warrington South.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who the special advisers in his Department are; what expertise each has; and what the cost of employing them was in the latest year for which figures are available. [163397]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's statement of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 147WS.

### Prisoners of War: Compensation

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applicants for compensation for former civilian detainees of the Japanese received the £4,000 damages settlement compensation; how many of these had received the original ex gratia grant of £10,000; and how many claims under the scheme have not been dealt with. [167821]

**Derek Twigg:** In October 2006, the Court of Appeal upheld a damages award in the case brought by Mrs. Elias to compensate her for injury to feelings caused by having been discriminated against on the grounds of national origin when her claim for an award

under the ex-gratia payment scheme for former Far East Prisoners of War and civilian internees was rejected under criteria based on place of birth (the "birthlink").

The Ministry of Defence subsequently confirmed that it would consider claims for compensation from others who were similarly entitled, and it is anticipated that the majority of former civilian internees that were rejected under the birthlink will be eligible for this compensation.

As at 21 November, 189 offers of compensation have been made. Of these, 23 individuals have separately qualified for an ex-gratia payment under the scheme on criteria based on residence. There is currently one civilian claim for an ex-gratia payment that is under consideration on which a decision has not yet been made.

### RAF Menwith Hill: Manpower

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel are employed at RAF Menwith Hill, broken down by employer. [166815]

**Derek Twigg:** As at 1 November 2007 the following UK personnel were employed at RAF Menwith Hill:

| *Employer* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Ministry of Defence | 232 |
| Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency | 148 |
| Royal Air Force | 4 |
| Royal Navy | 8 |
| UK Contractors | 51 |

I am withholding the number of GCHQ employees in accordance with Government practice not to reveal numbers of personnel working in intelligence at specific locations.

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many US personnel are based at RAF Menwith Hill, broken down by employer. [167000]

**Derek Twigg:** As at 1 November 2007 the following US personnel were employed at RAF Menwith Hill.

| *Employer* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| US Air Force | 173 |
| US Army | 146 |
| US Navy | 58 |
| US Marine Corps | 33 |
| Department of Defense | 220 |
| US Contractors | 558 |

A further 222 US civilians are employed at RAF Menwith Hill by various US agencies in catering and services functions. A detailed breakdown is not available.

### Territorial Army: Military Decorations

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will amend the regulations so that members of the Territorial Army can wear medals on Combat Soldier 95 working dress on Remembrance Day Parades and ceremonial occasions. [165907]

**Derek Twigg:** Where the occasion warrants it, medals are normally worn on Number 2 Dress at Service events such as Remembrance Parades or ceremonial occasions. Where TA personnel are not in possession of Number 2 Dress, which is the soldiers' usual "parade" or "walking-out" uniform, regional commanders have discretion to allow medals to be worn on Combat Soldier 95 working dress for the duration of such events.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Genetically Modified Organisms

**John Penrose:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he concluded his consideration of the proposed co-existence separation distances between GM and non-GM crops; and what conclusion he has come to. [167325]

**Mr. Woolas:** My written ministerial statement of 8 November 2007 explained that we will wait for further developments, including the results of scientific research and the expected EU thresholds for labelling adventitious GM presence in conventional seed, before finalising our coexistence policy. This will include crop separation distances.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the recent representations he has received on the Government's proposals for the co-existence of GM and non-GM crops; and how many were *(a)* in favour and *(b)* against the proposal. [167403]

**Mr. Woolas:** The consultation paper made a number of proposals on how to manage the coexistence of GM and non-GM crops. The summary of responses was published on 8 November 2007 and is available on the DEFRA website.

### Climate Change

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account he takes of the Natural Environment Research Council's research on climate systems in formulating his Department's policy on climate change and adaptation. [167818]

**Mr. Woolas:** My Department recognises the relevance and importance of the climate change research carried out by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). This make a significant contribution to the evidence base for policy formulation. Much of the climate research undertaken with DEFRA funding is done by the Met Office's Hadley Centre in close collaboration with NERC specialists.

This ongoing research effort is currently being strengthened through a new NERC and Met Office joint climate research programme. DEFRA is represented on the Programme Board of relevant NERC climate change programmes, for example quantifying and understanding the earth system (QUEST). DEFRA specialists liaise closely with NERC scientists and theme leaders and there is close collaboration at the highest level between the two organisations. My Department is a partner in NERC's new living with environmental change programme, which I anticipate will enable further important collaborations on climate science and adaptation issues.

### Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research *(a)* has been and *(b)* will be undertaken by his Department to assess the effects of fortnightly bin collections on levels of fly-tipping. [165914]

**Joan Ruddock:** My Department has not commissioned any research to formally assess fly-tipping incidents resulting from local authorities moving to alternate weekly collections of residual household waste.

Many alternate weekly collections have been in place for a number of years and pre-date the collection of fly-tipping statistics. In addition, many schemes run in only parts of a local authority area. Therefore, data from Flycapture, the national fly-tipping statistical database, cannot be used to assess a link between switching to alternate weekly collection of household waste and an increase in fly tipping incidents.

However, my Department has been in discussions with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to investigate whether there are any local authorities which are introducing these schemes in the future that would be prepared to carry out some pre and post-scheme analysis of fly-tipping. No local authorities have come forward to date. Discussions have also taken place with two local authorities that have recently introduced alternate weekly collections across the whole of their boroughs and my officials will investigate whether Flycapture can be used in these instances for any meaningful analysis.

My Department actively encourages local authorities to have fly-tipping prevention and enforcement strategies in place, regardless of whether they introduce alternate weekly collections or not.

### Flood Control: Expenditure

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on *(a)* river flood defences as internal drainage and *(b)* sea flood defences and England and Wales in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 2007. [166224]

**Mr. Woolas:** Flood risk management is a devolved issue, and in Wales, is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

The following table shows flood risk management (river and sea) spend by the Environment Agency in England. It is not possible to separate these costs into river and sea components because in many areas flood risk arises from both rivers and the sea.

| | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| Capital | 151 | 202 | 162 |
| Maintenance | 162 | 163 | 176 |
| Other | 62 | 153 | 115 |
| Total | 375 | 618 | 453 |

Capital figures reflect spend on new and improved capital measures to reduce flood risk, including flood warning infrastructure. Maintenance figures reflect spend on maintenance of existing assets. Other Flood Risk Management spend covers the cost of delivering flood warning services, flood mapping, development control, data management such as the National Flood and Coastal Defence Database, regional flood defence committees and other associated costs such as investment in and provision of information systems, accommodation and overheads.

The additional spend in 2005-06 was largely funded from Regional Flood Defence Committee financial balances which are no longer maintained now that the Environment Agency's principal funding source for flood risk management is direct grant from DEFRA.

The following table shows DEFRA's grant to local authorities and internal drainage boards for capital flood risk improvement works:

*DEFRA grant to local authorities*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 5.7 |
| 2005-06 | 10.5 |
| 2006-07 | 13.1 |

These figures are for both river and sea flood risk. Further substantial sums were paid to local authorities for coast protection works which are primarily intended to protect against coastal erosion but which also often provide significant protection against sea flooding. Local authorities also receive funding for flood risk maintenance and operational activities through the local government funding arrangements provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether her Department's statement of principles with the insurance industry extends to (a) the cost implications of additional landfill tax as a result of flood damaged property to be disposed of and (b) uninsured losses [167261]

**Phil Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The Association of British Insurers Statement of Principles aims to ensure continued widespread availability of flood cover for households in flood risk areas. It does not extend to the cost implications of additional landfill tax or uninsured losses.

### Flood Control: Hedges and Ditches

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will establish a national strategy for cleaning ditches and brooks as part of his flood prevention policy. [167515]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The operating authorities (principally the Environment Agency) undertake prioritised programmes of maintenance work on watercourses, including cleaning and dredging where appropriate. Otherwise responsibility for clearance lies with the land owner.

### Floods: East Riding

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms *(a)* he has and *(b)* he plans to put in place to prevent flooding in East Yorkshire. [167697]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Environment Agency is currently preparing the 100-year Hull and Humber Strategies. The Hull Strategy is expected to be delivered in 2008-09 subject to consultation leading to its implementation. It will examine the long-term requirements, risks, cost and benefits of flood defences, and other forms of flood risk management in the Hull catchment.

### Floods: West Country

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on flood defences in the West Country since 2002. [168628]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following table shows the amount spent on flood defences in the west country since 2002.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 39.3 |
| 2003-04 | 42.1 |
| 2004-05 | 38.3 |
| 2005-06 | 48.7 |
| 2006-07 | 45.1 |
| Total | 213.5 |

Capital support by DEFRA to local authorities and internal drainage boards (now paid through the Environment Agency) in the same area was as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1.2 |
| 2003-04 | 0.9 |
| 2004-05 | 0.4 |
| 2005-06 | 1.0 |
| 2006-07 | 1.4 |
| Total | 4.9 |

The aforementioned data do not include support for local authority coast protection works which are primarily intended to protect against coastal erosion, but can also often provide significant protection against sea flooding. Nor do they include funding to local authorities for flood risk maintenance and operational activities through local government funding arrangements provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

### Heating: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely increase in carbon dioxide emissions from the use of outdoor heating for smokers following the introduction of the ban on smoking in enclosed public places. [166554]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Market Transformation Programme (MTP) has recently updated its briefing note on 'Outdoor Heating for Comfort' to take account of the impact of the smoking ban on carbon dioxide emissions from outdoor heaters. The revised briefing note estimates that annual carbon dioxide emissions from patio heaters in commercial premises, would lie between 96 and 282 Kilotonnes $CO_2$. The updated briefing note is available on the MTP website at:

www.mtprog.com

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued to EAGA partnerships to ensure that Warm Front contractors are locally based. [166306]

**Mr. Woolas:** Guidance has not been issued to EAGA to appoint locally based installers.

EAGA has been instructed to select installers based on the strength of the tender they have submitted and following checks on financial probity and qualifications. Preference could not be given to local contractors due to regulations governing public procurement in the European Union.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether Warm Front contractors are required to be local businesses. [166307]

**Mr. Woolas:** Successful installers working on the Warm Front Scheme were chosen on the strength of the tender they submitted and following checks on financial probity and qualifications. Preference could not be given to local contractors per se due to regulations governing public procurement in the European Union.

### Nitrate Sensitive Areas: Public Participation

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on progress in the Nitrate Vulnerable Zones consultation. [167855]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The public consultation on the implementation of the EC Nitrates Directive in England was launched on 21 August. The deadline for receipt of responses is 13 December 2007.

A report presenting a summary of my Department's analysis of consultation responses will be published early in the new year.

### Recycling: Supermarkets

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for requiring supermarkets to take greater responsibility for the environmental impact of the waste they generate; and if he will make a statement. [162976]

**Joan Ruddock:** Supermarkets are already responsible for the environmental impact of the waste they generate.

There are two sets of packaging regulations in place to encourage producers (including retailers) to minimise, recycle and recover packaging and reduce packaging waste.

The Government have created incentives for all businesses to reduce, re-use and recycle their waste. For example, we have announced that the landfill tax escalator will be increased, so that the standard rate of tax will be raised by £8 per annum from £24 now to £48 in 2010.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) assists both businesses and consumers in their efforts to be more efficient in their use of materials and reduce the impacts of their waste. WRAP is currently working with food retailers through the 'Courtauld Commitment', a voluntary agreement which aims to halt packaging growth by 2008 and make absolute reductions in packaging waste by 2010. 12 major retailers, representing 92 per cent. of the UK grocery sector, and 12 major brands have signed the commitment since its launch in 2005.

In addition, DEFRA, working with WRAP and the devolved Administrations, has secured the agreement of UK retailers to reduce the overall environmental impact of their carrier bags by 25 per cent. by the end of 2008.

WRAP also has a target to divert 100,000 tonnes of food waste from landfill by March 2008. Retailers, and a number of significant food manufacturers, have agreed to work with WRAP to help deliver this target. More generally, DEFRA is working closely with the food industry to improve its environmental impact through the Food Industry Sustainability Strategy (FISS). The FISS targets a reduction in the food industry's own wastes of 15-20 per cent. by 2010.

### Waste Disposal: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with Gloucestershire county council on its proposed waste facility at Javelin Park off Junction 12 of the M5. [167402]

**Joan Ruddock:** No such discussions have taken place. The Government believe that local authorities are best placed to make local waste management decisions.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Africa: Floods

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the long-term effects of the flooding in Africa; and what additional work his Department is undertaking to assist the flood-hit regions. [165374]

**Mr. Malik:** In West Africa and the Sahel, the floods have coincided with the most critical time of year, when families face food insecurity. The destruction of crop and food stocks has aggravated the vulnerability of poor families both in the immediate and medium terms. In East Africa, the effects have been as severe—in Uganda, the next successful harvest cannot be expected before February 2008, and it will take at least two harvests for affected households to fully recover their losses.

Across the affected countries, medium term food security needs are being formally assessed by DFID's traditional partners (including the World Food Programme), and DFID will respond as appropriate on the basis of the vulnerabilities identified.

DFID has responded promptly to the humanitarian consequences of the flooding through relief interventions and complementary early recovery activities, where needs have been assessed and identified. Overall, a total of £9.21 million has been allocated for flood response from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)—to which the UK has contributed £42.2 million this year. The Togo contribution (£110,000) was specifically for agricultural recovery.

DFID is also the largest donor to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) in Sudan, contributing approximately £40 million this year, and the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) in Ethiopia, contributing £3 million this year. These funds have been drawn down in Sudan (£2.4 million) and Ethiopia (£1 million) for flood response. Some of these funds will be directed towards addressing the longer term effects of the flooding.

Direct DFID funding is being provided where humanitarian and recovery needs remain unmet. So far DFID has contributed £1 million in Ethiopia to the appeal of the international Red Cross (ICRC), some of which is being used for flood response, and a total of £1.834 million in Uganda and Ghana. In. Ghana £343,000 is in support of an agricultural recovery programme being implemented by CARE.

### Bangladesh: International Assistance

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid and assistance has been provided by the UK Government to Bangladesh in relation to damage caused by Cyclone Sidr. [168793]

**Mr. Malik:** The UK Government have provided £5 million for Cyclone Sidr relief in Bangladesh: £2.5 million through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to local Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and an additional £2.5 million as announced by the Secretary of State on the 23 November. The UK also accounts for an 18 per cent. share, around £650,000, of the European Commission's (EC) pledge of approximately £3.6 million for emergency aid. DFID has made indirect contributions through the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which has allocated US $14.7 million to the Bangladesh response. This year, DFID has provided $83.7 million to the Fund, making us the largest donor. The UK is also providing support through some of our existing development programmes in Bangladesh.

DFID has sent two disaster relief experts to Bangladesh to support the DFID country office in its emergency efforts and make recommendations on further UK support. Our Bangladesh office is in regular contact with the Government of Bangladesh's Disaster Management Bureau (to which DFID is providing long-term support), and the UN team concerning the situation on the ground.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)*

two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167370]

**Mr. Malik:** The Government publish an annual report to Parliament on the Department's performance in replying to Members and Peers correspondence. The report for 2006 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS. Information for 2007 will be published as soon it is ready after the end of the calendar year. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

DFID does not hold information on public inquiries in the format requested, and it could be collated only at a disproportionate cost. In 2006, the Department's Public Inquiry Point handled 17,545 inquiries. 88 per cent. of letters and 90 per cent. of e-mails were answered within 15 days and 95 per cent. of telephone requests were answered within two days.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167225]

**Mr. Malik:** Software from the following manufacturers is in use in DFID:

Abbey Software House
Adobe Systems Inc.
AdREM Software Inc.
Agresso
Ai Squared
AKS-Labs
Alfred Bolliger
Alito
Apache Software Foundation
Apple Inc.
Aptech Systems Inc.
ArcSoft Corporation
Attachmate Corporation
AXS-One Europe Ltd.
BanglaSoftware Group
Barron McCann Ltd
Belina Time Systems (Private) Limited
BizCard Inc.
Blackwells
BorderWare Technologies Inc.
Borland
Bottom line
BRADY Corporation
Brittania
Gentium
Centre Technologies Ltd
Check Point Software Technologies Ltd
Cirrus Information Technology Limited
Cisco
Citrix Systems, Inc
CODA
Cognos
Commvault Systems Inc
Computer Associates
Cordis
Corel Corporation
D-BIT Australia Pty Ltd
Drawbase Software.
Macrovision Corporation
Esker
Ethereal, Inc.
EuroFluxo International.
GIMP
GlobalScape Inc
Google Inc.
Grundig Business Systems
Helios Software Solutions
Hewlett Packard
I.R.I.S. Group
Infra
Inmagic, Inc.
Insights Learning and Development Limited
Inspiration Software Inc.
International Household Survey Network
iPass Inc.
Ipswitch, Inc.
Javvin Technologies, Inc.
Jupiterimages (UK) Ltd.
LAC VIET Computing Corp
Lenel Systems International, Inc.
Luxmate
MediaLingua
Messaging Architects
Microfocus
Microsoft Corporation
Mininova
Multisystems
NaturalSoft Limited
Network Instruments
Newell Rubbermaid
Nokia
Northgate
Novell Inc.
Nuance Communications, Inc
NUNIT
Oki Electric Industry Co., Ltd.
Olympus Imaging America Inc.
Open Text Corporation
Oracle Corporation
Palm Inc.
Paymaster
Pham Kim Long
Phoenix Travel
Pixel Translations/E File UK Ltd
Polycom
Quark Inc.
Quest Software, Inc.
RDA Enterprises Inc.
Real Networks, Inc.
RealVNC Limited
Reflex Magnetics Ltd
Research In Motion Ltd

Sabre Inc.
Sage (UK) Ltd
Scion Electronics
Seavus Group
SHE Software Limited
Sim Card Manager
SimTech Systems Inc.
SirsiDynix
Skinkers
Softline Pastel
Softline VIP
Sonic Solutions
Sony Corporation
SPSS Inc.
Standard Chartered
StataCorp LP
Stonesoft
Sun MicroSystems Inc.
Surpass Software
SWiSHzone.com Pty Ltd
Symantec
System At Work
Tardus
TechSmith Corporation
Texthelp Systems Ltd
The Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations Ltd
The Solution Works
The Thomson Corporation
The World Bank Group
Tilman Hausherr
Toshiba Corporation
Touchpaper Software plc
Transition Associates Limited
Trend Micro Incorporated
UNICEF
Unicorn
Valid Information Systems
Verity, Inc.
Vodafone
Visual Click Software, Inc.
VMWare
Watchfire Corporation
WebTrends Inc.
win.rar GmbH/Canboy
Wolters Kluwer (UK) Limited
WRQ
YesSoftware, Inc

### Developing Countries: Water

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid and assistance was provided by the Government to improve water and sanitation provisions in developing countries in each of the last five years. [168794]

**Mr. Malik:** A detailed breakdown of DFID support for the water sector over the last five years can be found in two reports titled "Financial Support to the Water Sector 2002-2004" and "Financial Support to the Water Sector 2004-2006", prepared for DFID by WS Atkins Plc. Both are available on the DFID website: www.dfid.gov.uk.

### Sudan: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of the conflict in western Sudan; and what steps he has taken to ensure the long-term integration of sustainable resource management into recovery programmes. [166363]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID supported the "UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment for Sudan-2007". This concentrates on the links between conflict and the environment, including in Western Sudan. The report highlights competition over pastoral land and water in Darfur as a driving force behind the majority of local confrontations over the last 70 years. It also indicates a very strong link between land degradation, desertification and conflict in the region.

Further to this analysis, we are also providing £2.18 million to support a new sustainable livelihoods programme in Darfur in partnership with UNEP, the UN Human Settlement Programme and the UN Resident Co-ordinator's Office. The programme aims to protect environmental assets, support strategies that "do no harm", and promote environmentally-friendly solutions that sustainably protect the livelihoods of ordinary Darfuris. The programme will work with and through others to prevent deforestation, promote woodless construction and improve water resource management.

### Trade: Medicine

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the Government is offering support to countries which wish to use Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights flexibilities to produce, export or import generic medicines. [165206]

**Mr. Malik:** The Government support the right of developing countries to utilise TRIPS flexibilities and in particular to facilitate access to cheaper medicines. This includes the right to produce, export or import generic medicines under a compulsory licence. The Government strongly supported the EU Regulation passed in 2006 which enables European generic manufacturers to export medicines under a compulsory licence to developing countries in accordance with the amendment to TRIPS agreed by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2005.

DFID has financed a number of organisations to provide support to developing countries to make better use of their TRIPS flexibilities, including compulsory licensing. These organisations include the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). Activities include country level analysis of legislation and policy and technical assistance in the form of training and diagnosis.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefits

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of children living in households entitled to but not claiming *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* council tax benefit; and if he will make a statement; [167009]

(2) what the take-up rate of *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit and *(c)* disability living allowance among those eligible was in each year since their introduction; and if he will make a statement; [167092]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of children living in households eligible for but not claiming housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [167095]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Estimates of the number of children living in households entitled to but not claiming benefit are not available.

Estimates of the take-up rates and number of families not claiming the main income-related benefits—income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and income-based jobseeker's allowance—are available in the DWP publication series entitled 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2005-06'. The latest edition includes estimates of take-up in each year since 1997-98. Copies of the latest publication, plus past reports, can be found in the Library.

Estimates of the take-up rate of disability living allowance are not available.

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the take-up rates of *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit and *(c)* disability living allowance were in 2006-07; [167521]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of children living in households entitled to but not claiming *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit and *(c)* disability living allowance. [167522]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Estimates of take-up in 2006-07 are not available.

The latest estimates relate to 2005-06. These estimates cover the take-up of the main income-related benefits only—income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and income-based jobseeker's allowance—and are available in the DWP publication entitled 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2005-06'. Copies of the latest publication, plus past reports, can be found in the Library.

Estimates of the take-up rate of disability living allowance are not available.

Estimates of the number of children living in households entitled to but not claiming benefit are not available.

### Carers' Allowances

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employed people qualify for the carer's allowance. [162622]

**Mrs. McGuire:** At May 2007, 48,970 carer's allowance claimants were in employment.

### Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will be fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [167812]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Subject to parliamentary approval, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission will become operational in 2008.

### Children: Maintenance

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many absent parents in each constituency in Scotland are being dealt with by the Child Support Agency under the old rules. [162755]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty dated 27 November 2007:*

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many absent parents in each constituency in Scotland are being dealt with by the Child Support Agency under the old rules. [162755]

The Agency does not gather information in the format requested. The information available relates to the number of old rules cases with a non-resident parent living in each constituency in Scotland as at September 2007 and is provided in the attached table. Therefore, non-resident parents with more than one case will be counted for each related case.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

*Parliamentary constituency of non-resident parent for cases dealt with under old rules: September 2007*

| *Constituency* | *Cases* |
|---|---|
| Aberdeen North | 1,300 |
| Aberdeen South | 900 |
| Airdrie and Shotts | 1,500 |
| Angus | 1,400 |
| Argyll and Bute | 900 |
| Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock | 1,400 |
| Banff and Buchan | 1,100 |
| Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk | 1,300 |
| Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross | 600 |
| Central Ayrshire | 1,400 |
| Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill | 1,400 |
| Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East | 1,000 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 1,100 |
| Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale | 800 |
| Dundee East | 1,400 |
| Dundee West | 1,700 |
| Dunfermline and West Fife | 1,400 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 300 |

*Parliamentary constituency of non-resident parent for cases dealt with under old rules: September 2007*

| *Constituency* | *Cases* |
|---|---|
| East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow | 900 |
| East Lothian | 900 |
| East Renfrewshire | 600 |
| Edinburgh East | 1,100 |
| Edinburgh North and Leith | 1,000 |
| Edinburgh South | 600 |
| Edinburgh South West | 1,400 |
| Edinburgh West | 700 |
| Falkirk | 1,800 |
| Glasgow Central | 1,200 |
| Glasgow East | 1,500 |
| Glasgow North | 900 |
| Glasgow North East | 2,000 |
| Glasgow North West | 1,500 |
| Glasgow South | 1,200 |
| Glasgow South West | 1,600 |
| Glenrothes | 1,700 |
| Gordon | 800 |
| Inverclyde | 1,100 |
| Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey | 1,300 |
| Kilmarnock and Loudoun | 1,300 |
| Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath | 1,600 |
| Lanark and Hamilton East | 1,300 |
| Linlithgow and East Falkirk | 1,500 |
| Livingston | 1,900 |
| Midlothian | 1,100 |
| Moray | 1,100 |
| Motherwell and Wishaw | 1,400 |
| Na h-Eileanan an Iar | 200 |
| North Ayrshire and Arran | 1,400 |
| North East Fife | 700 |
| Ochil and South Perthshire | 1,400 |
| Orkney and Shetland | 600 |
| Paisley and Renfrewshire North | 900 |
| Paisley and Renfrewshire South | 1,200 |
| Perth and North Perthshire | 1,200 |
| Ross, Skye and Lochaber | 600 |
| Rutherglen and Hamilton West | 1,300 |
| Stirling | 1,000 |
| West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine | 500 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 1,200 |

*Notes:*
1. Includes all cases with either a full maintenance assessment or an interim maintenance assessment Including those with a nil liability.
2. This table relates to cases. Therefore, non-resident parents involved in more than one case are included multiple times.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
4. Cases have been allocated to parliamentary constituency through matching the postcode for a residential address against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.
5. A component of the old scheme numbers is taken from a 5 per cent. sample of cases on the old computer system. The old scheme figures and the overall totals are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation. This sampling variation is greater in proportional terms when the number estimated is small.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time was for child support applications in each constituency in Scotland in the latest period for which figures are available. [163463]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information requested is not available at constituency level.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether money received from *(a)* war disablement pensions and *(b)* the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (i) is included in the calculation of child support payments by the Child Support Agency and (ii) will be included in calculations made by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [166303]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The current treatment of parents receiving these payments differs between the two existing schemes.

Under the first child support scheme introduced in 1993 any element of a war disablement pension awarded in respect of attendance needs is ignored. The remaining part of that award in respect of a parent, and any periodical payment made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, will be taken into account, apart from a £10 a week disregard. If the liability of a non-resident parent receiving one of these payments would otherwise be the minimum amount, the liability is reduced to nil.

Under the second child support scheme, introduced from March 2003, a non-resident parent receiving war disablement pension or periodical payments under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme will be liable for a flat-rate maintenance of £5 per week.

The proposed new calculation rules to be operated by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission from 2010 will continue to include a flat-rate but at £7 per week for non-resident parents receiving war disablement pension or periodical payments under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Maintenance and Enforcements Commission will sign new contracts with debt collection agencies for debt collection or maintain contracts with agencies signed by the Child Support Agency. [166357]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** When responsibility for child support functions transfers to the Commission, the Commission will be able to use the contracts currently used by the CSA. Future debt collection arrangements will be for the Commission to determine.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals have received a consolatory payment from the Child Support Agency; [166679]

(2) what the *(a)* average size and *(b)* total value has been of consolatory payments made to individuals by the Child Support Agency. [166680]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 27 November 2007:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many individuals have received a consolatory payment from the Child Support Agency. [166679]

and

What the (a) average size and (b) total value has been of consolatory payments made to individuals by the Child Support Agency. [166680]

The Agency does not routinely collect information regarding the number of individuals that receive consolatory payments. The information provided in the table below refers to the total number of consolatory awards made in the most recent complete year. Individuals may receive more than one award in any year.

*Child Support Agency consolatory awards*

| | *2006-07* |
|---|---|
| Total number of Consolatory awards made | 9,194 |
| Consolatory payments (£ million) | 0.666 |
| Average (£) | 72.44 |

Consolatory awards are not usually large amounts but do acknowledge that a client's case has not been handled as well as it might.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Departmental Pay

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of the Christmas bonus was in each year since 1997. [166830]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Christmas bonus has been £10 in each year since 1997.

### Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants with claims of five years or more duration there were in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* parliamentary constituency. [162684]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The available information has been placed in the Library.

### Incapacity Benefit: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of incapacity benefit in West Chelmsford constituency there were in each of the last five years. [166241]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The information is in the following table.

*Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency*

| *Quarter ending May* | *West Chelmsford* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 2,260 |
| 2004 | 2,360 |
| 2005 | 2,470 |
| 2006 | 2,430 |
| 2007 | 2,430 |

*Note:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

### National Insurance

**Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many duplicate national insurance numbers have been issued in error in the last three years for which figures are available. [163722]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2294W. There is no later information available.

### Pension Credit

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated cost would be of increasing the pension credit to *(a)* 20 per cent., *(b)* 40 per cent. and *(c)* 60 per cent. of the average wage (i) in gross terms and (ii) net of existing benefits foregone and extra tax paid. [163337]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* The costs and savings of changing the level of the standard minimum guarantee to the proportion of the average wage specified in the question are shown in the following table. There are a number of different definitions of average wages. For the purposes of this answer we are using the gross weekly average mean earnings reported by the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2007. This figure stands at £549.80. 60 per cent. of this figure is £329.88.

It should be noted that this is a very different definition to the one used to understand low incomes for pensioners. Low income pensioners are often measured as those living in households with an income below 60 per cent. of median household income. Here income is measured as total net disposable household income after deducting housing costs, adjusted for household size. In 2005-06, the 60 per cent. of median income amount after housing costs are deducted stood at the equivalent of £108 for a single person without children.

*Cost of changing pension credit standard minimum guarantee to proportions of average wage—2007-08*

| | *Costs/ savings (£ billion)* | *Implied standard minimum guarantee (£)* | *Endpoint of pension credit (£)* | *Proportion of pensioner households eligible for PC* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 per cent. mean wage | saving of 2.1 billion | 109.96 | 143.95 | around one-third |
| 40 per cent. of mean wage | cost of 34.5 billion | 219.92 | 418.85 | around 80 per cent. |

*Cost of changing pension credit standard minimum guarantee to proportions of average wage—2007-08*

| | Costs/ savings (£ billion) | Implied standard minimum guarantee (£) | Endpoint of pension credit (£) | Proportion of pensioner households eligible for PC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60 per cent. of mean wage | cost of 84.0 billion | 329.88 | 693.75 | around 90 per cent. |

*Notes*
1. The average wage is defined as the mean gross weekly pay for full time employee jobs.
2. The impacts of the proposals on housing benefit and council tax benefit expenditure are included.
3. Costs and savings have been rounded to the nearest £100 million.
4. Pension credit is not subject to income tax, therefore answer provided in gross terms only.
5. The pension credit end point is the level of income at which entitlement to pension credit ceases. This amount can be higher if someone is entitled to additional amounts for caring responsibilities, severe disabilities and certain housing costs.
*Source:*
2007-08 DWP Policy Simulation Model based on 2005-06 Family Resources Survey. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2007

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of those eligible for pension credit who claimed it in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last three years. [166604]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Estimates of eligibility and take-up are not available below the level of Great Britain. It is not therefore possible to say how many people are eligible to pension credit and what the take-up rate is for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency.

Latest estimates of take-up rates for pension credit in Great Britain were published in the "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2005/06" report. A copy of this report is available in the Library.

The following table shows the number of households in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in receipt of pension credit as at May in each of the last three years.

| As at May of each year | Pension credit household recipients |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 5,030 |
| 2006 | 5,130 |
| 2007 | 5,120 |

*Notes:*
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
*Source:*
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data

## Pension Funds: EC Law

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the EU Markets in Financial Instruments Directive on the ability of pension funds to acquire foreign shares. [165824]

**Kitty Ussher:** I have been asked to reply.

In order to assess the impact of MiFID, research was commissioned by the FSA. This highlighted that potential benefits to investors, which include pension funds, could arise from increased competition and from deeper and more liquid capital markets.

## Pensions: Post Offices

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Eastbourne who collect their pensions from the post office. [165317]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available in the format requested.

Information showing the number of DWP pension payment accounts paid into a Post Office card account for each parliamentary constituency has been placed in the Library.

In addition to the Post Office card account, there are around 25 bank accounts which are accessible at post offices.

## Population: Pensioners

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in the number of people aged *(a)* 65 years and over and *(b)* 75 years and over in each constituency in England since 1997. [167573]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question regarding what estimate has been made of the change in the number of people aged (a) 65 years and over and (b) 75 years and over in each constituency in England since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (167573)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not currently have for the whole of England, parliamentary constituency population estimates from 1997. I am therefore unable to provide an estimate of the numbers aged 65 or 75 years and over in each constituency in England.

ONS is however intending to publish population estimates for parliamentary constituencies in England (and Wales) for mid-2001 to mid-2005 as experimental statistics in December 2007. It will therefore be possible for us to provide population estimates by age (and sex) for parliamentary constituencies in England for these years.

## Redundancy Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 237W, on redundancy pay, what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest redundancy payment was; and what the budget for redundancies was in that period. [166288]

**Caroline Flint:** In the 12 months ending 31 March 2007, £55.8 million was spent on early release payments. Over this period there were no compulsory redundancies.

Based on the average cost to the Department in 2006-07, the overall average early release payment was £50,000. The highest early release cost to the Department, at Grade 6 level, was £240,000 and the lowest early release cost, at Administrative Assistant level, was £9,500 and the overall average cost in that year was £50,000. These payments are based on the cost to the Department not the payment to the individual.

The departmental budget for early releases in 2006-07 was £85 million. £55.8 million has been spent and the balance of £29.2 million has been set aside for future pension provision.

### Social Security Benefits: Disabled

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people who are entitled to disability-related benefits but are not claiming them. [166514]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Disability-related benefits consist of disability living allowance and attendance allowance. Estimates of take-up are not available for either.

### Social Security Benefits: Fraud

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in West Chelmsford constituency have been found guilty of benefit fraud in each of the last five years. [167893]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available below Government office region level.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the merits of issuing P60s to confirm state pension payment levels; and if he will make a statement. [165349]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* We have had no recent representations. However, state pension customers can request a statement of state pension paid in a previous tax year, by contacting their pension centre. Form BR735 is completed by pension centre staff on receipt of a request and is then issued direct to the customer.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what number and percentage of eligible pensioners in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* South West England and *(c)* England have claimed winter fuel allowance in each of the last five years. [166580]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The information requested is not available in the form requested. We can only assess eligibility for those people who are in contact with the Department and whose circumstances are known. The vast majority of winter fuel payments are made automatically without the need to claim, but those people whose circumstances we are not already aware of, for instance because they are not on state pension or other benefits administered by DWP, would need to make a claim so that their eligibility can be assessed.

The following table shows the number of winter fuel payments made to people in the county of Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly, South West England Government office region and England in each of the last five years.

*Payments Made*

| | *Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly* | *South West England* | *England* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 123,410 | 1,132,140 | 9,709,940 |
| 2003-04 | 125,500 | 1,148,050 | 9,813,180 |
| 2004-05 | 125,300 | 1,146,650 | 9,761,980 |
| 2005-06 | 127,410 | 1,163,320 | 9,863,780 |
| 2006-07 | 130,810 | 1,186,270 | 10,028,780 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Government office regions are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

*Source:*
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Departmental Press

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [166870]

**Mr. Lammy:** A list of periodicals subscribed to by the DCSF library is shown in the following list. Current DCSF library provide information and library services to ex-DFES staff within DIUS, including access to hard copy journals. Ex-DTI staff within DIUS have no access to centralised periodical provision. Individual teams within DIUS have the option to subscribe to periodicals if they wish, however to extract this information would involve disproportionate cost.

*List of periodicals subscribed to by DCSF Library*

*Accountancy*
*ACE Bulletin (Advisory Centre for Education)*
*Adults Learning*
*American Economic Review*
*American Journal of Sociology*
*Autlook (previously called: AUT Bulletin)*
*Basic Skills Bulletin*
*Bookseller*
*British Education Index*
*British Educational Research Journal*
*British Journal of Educational Psychology*
*British Journal of Educational Studies*
*British Journal of Educational Technology*
*British Journal of Psychology*
*British Journal of Sociology*
*British Journal of Sociology of Education*
*British Journal of Special Education*
*Broadsheet (City and Guilds of London Institute) website*
*Bulletpoint*
*Cambio 16*
*Cambridge Journal of Economics*
*Campaigns Newsletter (Child Poverty Action Group)*
*Case Notes (formerly: Parents and Schools)*
*Catholic Herald (website)*
*CBI Industrial Trends Survey*
*CEDEFOP Info*

*Centrepiece*
*Child Abuse Review*
*Child: Care, Health and Development*
*Child Education*
*Children and Society*
*Children Now (website)*
*Choice*
*Church Times*
*CJM (Criminal Justice Matters)*
*Community Care (website)*
*Computer Education*
*Computer Weekly (website)*
*Computing (website)*
*Counselling and Psychotherapy Research Journal (formerly: Counselling)*
*Current Sociology*
*Curriculum Journal*
*Deafness and Education International*
*Disability Now*
*Dot Net (.Net)*
*Drug Link*
*E-Learning Age: the magazine for the learning organisation (incorporating KM News)*
*E-Learning Today (formerly Interactive: Managing ICT in Schools)*
*Early Childhood Research and Practice*
*Early Education*
*Early Years Educator: EYE*
*Econometrics Journal*
*Economic Journal*
*Economic Policy Reforms: Going for Growth*
*Economic and Labour Market Review (formerly Economic Trends)*
*Economics of Education Review*
*Economist*
*Education 3-13*
*Education and Health*
*Education and Training Parliamentary Monitor*
*Education Economics*
*Education Journal*
*Education Review*
*Education Today (formerly: Educational Times)*
*Education Week (USA)*
*Educational and Child Psychology*
*Educational Computing and Technology*
*Educational Management Administration and Leadership (formerly Educational Management and Administration)*
*Educational Policy*
*Educational Research*
*Educational Researcher*
*Educational Review*
*Educational Studies*
*Employer's Law*
*Employment and Earnings*
*European Journal of Special Needs Education*
*European Journal of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)*
*Evaluation*
*Evaluation and Research in Education*
*Evidence and Policy: A journal of Research Debate and Practice*
*Exceptional Children*
*L'Express*
*Forum for Promoting 3-19 Education*
*Government Computing*
*Lords Hansard*
*Commons Hansard*
*Harvard Business Review*
*Harvard Educational Review*
*Health and Safety Monitor*
*Health Service Journal*
*Higher Education: the international journal of higher education and educational planning*
*Higher Education Management and Policy*
*Higher Education Quarterly*
*Higher Education Review*
*Higher Quality*
*History*
*History Today*
*House Magazine*
*House of Commons Weekly Information Bulletin*
*Human Resource Management Journal*
*IDS Employment Law Brief*
*IDS HR Studies*
*IDS Pay Report (formerly IDS Report)*
*Improving Schools*
*Information Today*
*Information World Review*
*Interactive: Managing ICT in Schools (see E-Learning Today)*
*International Financial Statistics (IMF)*
*International Journal of Early Years Education*
*International Journal of Social Research Methodology*
*International Labour Review*
*IRS Employment Review (formerly: Industrial Relations Review and Report)*
*Journal of Communication Management*
*Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*
*Journal of Early Childhood Literacy*
*Journal of Early Childhood Research*
*Journal of Economic Literature*
*Journal of Economic Perspectives*
*Journal of Education and Work (formerly: British Journal of Education and Work)*
*Journal of Education Policy*
*Journal of Educational Research*
*Journal of Labor Economics*
*Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*
*Journal of Management Studies*
*Journal of Moral Education*
*Journal of Organisational Behaviour*
*Journal of Research into Special Educational Needs*
*Journal of Social Policy*
*Journal of Special Education*
*Journal of Vocational Education and Training*
*Junior Education*
*KM Review*
*Labour Force Survey Quarterly Supplement*
*Labour Market Statistics: First Release*
*Labour Market Trends (see Economic and Labour Market Review)*
*Labour Research*

*LDR (National College for School Leadership)*
*Linguist*
*Literacy (formerly Reading, Literacy and Language)*
*Literacy Today*
*Local Economy*
*Local Government Chronicle*
*London Gazette Supplement*
*London Review of Education*
*Management in Education*
*Management Learning*
*Management Today*
*Managing Information (Aslib)*
*Managing Schools Today (previously called: School Governor)*
*Marketing Week*
*The MJ: The Management Journal for Local Authority Business*
*Le Monde de l'Education*
*Monthly Digest of Statistics (ONS)*
*National Institute Economic Review*
*Nature*
*New Nation*
*New Scientist (website)*
*New Statesman*
*Newscheck (Careers and Occupational Information Centre)*
*Newsweek International*
*NFER News (National Foundation for Education Research)*
*Nursery and Childcare Market News*
*Nursery World*
*OECD Economic Outlook*
*OECD Economic Studies*
*Open Learning*
*Oxford Review of Economic Policy*
*Oxford Review of Education*
*PDT—Professional Development Today*
*People Management*
*Personal Computer World (website)*
*Personnel Today (website)*
*Le Point (website)*
*Policy and Politics*
*Policy Studies*
*Political Quarterly*
*Population Trends*
*Poverty (Child Poverty Action Group)*
*Practical Funding for Schools*
*Practical Research in Education (formerly Topic)*
*Private Eye*
*Professionalism in Practice (formerly: Professional Teacher)*
*Project*
*Project Manager Today*
*Prospect*
*Psychologist*
*Public*
*Public Policy and Administration*
*Public Policy Research (formerly New Economy)*
*Qualitative Research*
*Quality in Higher Education*
*Race and Class*
*Race Equality Teaching (formerly: Multicultural Teaching)*
*RE Today*
*Research in Education*
*Research in Post Compulsory Education*
*Research Intelligence: BERA Newsletter*
*Research into Higher Education Abstracts access via Educational Research Abstracts*
*Research Papers in Education*
*Review of Educational Research*
*Salisbury Review*
*School Effectiveness and School Improvement*
*School Leadership*
*School Leadership and Management (formerly School Organisation)*
*Scientific American (website)*
*Sex Education*
*Social Policy and Society*
*Social Sciences—News from ESRC*
*Sociological Review*
*Sociology of Education Abstracts see Educational Research Abstracts*
*Special Children*
*The Spectator (website)*
*Spectrum*
*Der Spiegel*
*Strategic HR Review*
*Studies in Higher Education*
*Studies in the Education of Adults (previously called: Studies in Adult Education)*
*Support for Learning*
*Sure Start*
*The Teacher*
*Teachers magazine (DCSF split into Primary and Secondary from 2001)*
*Teaching Thinking*
*Teaching Today (NASUWT)*
*Technology in Education*
*Technology, Pedagogy and Education (previously called: Journal of Information Technology for Teacher Education, 1992-2002)*
*Time Magazine*
*Time Out*
*Times Educational Supplement*
*Times Higher Education Supplement*
*Times Literary Supplement*
*Tips and Advice Internet*
*Topic see Practical Research in Education*
*Training and Employment (French Dimensions)*
*Training Journal (formerly Training Officer)*
*Tribune*
*UK Economic Accounts*
*Under Five (previously called: Contact or Under Five Contact)*
*The Voice (website)*
*Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*
*Welfare Rights Bulletin*
*Which?*
*Whitehall and Westminster World*
*Work Employment and Society*
*Working Brief*
*Young People Now*
*Youth and Policy*
*0-19 Zero 2 Nineteen*

### Institute for Animal Health: Floods

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) on how many occasions Category 3 drains at the Compton and Pirbright sites of the Institute for Animal Health flooded due to storm water in each of the last five years; and whether in each case there was a back-up of potentially contaminated water into bio-secure areas; [166884]

(2) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff work at the Institute of Animal Health facility at Pirbright; how many buildings and other contractors have worked there in 2007; what bio-security measures are in place to prevent disease transmission by employees, students or contractors; and what other security checks are carried out in respect of individuals with access to the site. [166885]

**Ian Pearson:** These are matters for the Institute for Animal Health. I have drawn the attention of the Chairman of the Governing Board to the hon. Member's questions.

### Prisoners: Education

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many prisoners attained *(a)* a level 2, *(b)* a level 3 and *(c)* a higher than level 3 qualification while in prison in (i) England, (ii) London and (iii) each London borough in each year since 1997. [166927]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information requested is not available as data were not collected centrally.

The introduction of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) from 31 July 2006 means that data on individual offender achievement will increasingly become available for adults, young offenders and juveniles in custody, in England. Data in the format requested will be available from spring 2008 for the academic year 2006/07.

### Redundancy: Pay

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1754W, on redundancy pay, how much was spent by his Department on voluntary redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [166286]

**Mr. Lammy:** The position remains unchanged from the response I gave to the hon. Member on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1754W.

### Research: Science

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many scientific research prizes were issued by his Department in each year since 1997; and what their total value was. [166893]

**Ian Pearson:** The Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills and its relevant predecessor bodies have not issued any scientific research prizes since 1997.

### Students: English Language

**Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on the number of students taking up English for speakers of other languages courses of the implementation of the new funding system; [167472]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the geographical profile of English for speakers of other languages students of the implementation of the new fees structure. [167473]

**Bill Rammell:** The first return of learner data is not expected until December 2007, and this will help to develop an understanding of the implications of the Governments changes to ESOL policy for 2007/08 at a national as well as local level. The LSC and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills are working very closely to analyse the full impact of the ESOL policy changes on demand, as well as on provider behaviour and we have commissioned additional impact assessment work to help us do this. The priority for the Government and the LSC is that public support is available to those who need it most, and we will continue to work towards this agenda.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Detainees

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which NATO members currently involved in ISAF in Afghanistan do not have memoranda of understanding on the transfer of detainees with the Afghan authorities; and if he will make a statement. [166139]

**David Miliband:** We are aware of a bilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Afghan Government and The Netherlands, Canada, Norway, and Denmark. The UK also has a bilateral MoU.

Our MoU details the arrangements reached between the UK and Afghan Governments and sets out the responsibilities of both parties before and after the transfer to Afghan authorities of persons detained in Afghanistan by British forces.

### Afghanistan: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK has put forward a candidate for the position of UN Special Representative for Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [166132]

**David Miliband:** The contract of the current UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Tom Koenigs, runs until February 2008. He has announced his intention to step down. We, and other UN member states, are considering the issue of his successor, which is ultimately a decision for the UN Secretary-General.

**Belarus: Sanctions**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on Belarus, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166067]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

EU member states do not systematically share detailed information concerning the value of funds they have identified and frozen. However, they are legally obliged to freeze all funds and economic resources belonging to persons listed under the sanctions regime. It is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to these persons.

To date no funds have been identified in the UK in relation to EU sanctions on Belarus.

**Bosnia: Radioactive Materials**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to his counterpart in Bosnia-Herzegovina on the theft of 60 radiation generators from nuclear medicine department storage in Banja Luka in the Entity of Republica Srpska in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [166145]

**David Miliband:** We are aware that on 8 November, 60 lead containers were stolen from the Banja Luka Institute for Medicine. Bosnian police have stated that this theft poses no danger to the public since the radioactive isotopes stored in the containers have expired. The police believe that the lead was stolen for resale. The Bosnian police and Interpol are investigating the theft. I have therefore not made representations on this issue.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the International Atomic Energy Agency on the theft of 60 radiation generators from nuclear medicine department storage in Banja Luka in the Entity of Republica Srpska in Bosnia-Hezegovina. [166158]

**David Miliband:** I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave him today (UIN: 166145).

**Burma: Sanctions**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on Burma, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166073]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU Sanctions along with our EU partners.

EU member states do not systematically share detailed information concerning the value of funds they have identified and frozen. However, they are legally obliged to freeze all funds and economic resources belonging to persons listed under the sanctions regime. It is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to these persons.

The reported balance of UK frozen funds in relation to EU sanctions on Burma amounts to approximately £49,500.

**China: Summit Conferences**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what preparations have been made for the EU-China Summit on 28 November; what topics he expects to be on the agenda for this summit; and if he will make a statement. [166064]

**David Miliband:** The UK has worked closely with the EU Presidency, Commission and Council Secretariat, and with other key member states, to work towards a successful EU-China Summit. I expect the summit to cover issues such as: a review of negotiations on an EU-China Partnership and Co-operation Agreement; discussion of the sectoral dialogues and bilateral agreements (including partnership on climate change and energy co-operation); economic and trade issues; human rights; and discussion of international and regional issues (including Burma and Africa).

**Cote d'Ivoire: Sanctions**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on Cote d'Ivoire, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166070]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

EU member states do not systematically share detailed information concerning the value of funds they have identified and frozen. However, they are legally obliged to freeze all funds and economic resources belonging to persons listed under the sanctions regime. It is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to these persons.

The reported balance of UK frozen funds amounts to £18,352.07, in relation to UN and EU sanctions on Cote d' Ivoire.

**Croatia: Sanctions**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on Croatia, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166071]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

There are no EU financial sanctions imposed on Croatia. EU Common Position 2004/694/Common Foreign Security Policy imposed an asset freeze on individuals indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. To date no funds have been identified in the UK.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167384]

**Meg Munn:** The percentage of general inquiries received by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from members of the public and responded to within:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| one week | 59.2 |
| 7 to 14 days | 4.2 |
| 14 to 28 days | 5.6 |
| One to two months | 19.7 |
| Two to three months | 0.5 |
| Transferred to other Government departments or indecipherable | 10.8 |

Unfortunately, I am unable to provide the hon. Member with statistics before 1 August 2007 as letters received before that date were not recorded.

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168108]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office employs 12,788 staff overseas, of which 2,439 are UK-based and 10,349 are locally employed. UK-based staff are British citizens. We have no central records of the nationality of local staff.

### Departmental Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167932]

**Meg Munn:** No UK-based member of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) or its agencies has private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. FCO staff, like other civil servants, have access to the national health service in the UK. While serving overseas FCO staff are covered by an employee health care scheme which offers access to NHS standards of care. Those serving in the United States gain access to this standard of care through an in-country insurance scheme contracted for that purpose.

FCO policy is that staff recruited locally by our missions overseas should be covered for medical care in accordance with local law and local good employer practice.

### Departmental Orders and Regulations

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many regulations his Department has *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked in the last 12 months. [167079]

**Meg Munn:** In the period 1 November 2006 to 31 October 2007, there were 21 statutory instruments which were prepared by the Foreign and Commonwealth and made by the Queen in Privy Council. The information requested about which statutory instruments have been revoked in the last 12 months could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167306]

**Meg Munn:** It would incur disproportionate cost to collate the information requested by the hon. Member to answer his question.

### Deportation

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which countries the UK is discussing repatriation arrangements with a view to signing new agreements for deportations; and if he will make a statement. [167423]

**David Miliband:** We have signed memorandums of understanding concerning the provision of assurances in respect of persons subject to deportation with Jordan, Libya and Lebanon. Arrangements allowing deportations with assurances are in place with Algeria.

Our discussions with other countries are less advanced, and it would not be helpful to identify the countries concerned. We will update the House if and when we reach agreement.

### Dudley Ankerson

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 559W, on Dudley Ankerson, whether Mr. Dudley Ankerson's association with his Department has been confirmed in official documents published by his Department. [168567]

**Meg Munn:** The 2006 edition of The Diplomatic Service List, published by The Stationery Office, confirmed Dr. Dudley Ankerson as a member of HM diplomatic service.

### Gaza: Fuels

**Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary on resuming fuel supplies for Gaza. [168656]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised Gaza with the Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, and the Defence Minister, Ehud Barak, during his recent visit to Israel, the occupied Palestinian territories and Egypt (17 to 20 November). My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also stressed to the Israeli Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni, the need to ensure that adequate supplies entered Gaza.

**Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the fuel blockade on Gaza. [168657]

**Dr. Howells:** Following Israel's announcement of its intention to cut fuel supplies to Gaza, diesel and petrol imports have been cut by about 40 per cent.. So far, municipalities and hospitals are being prioritised for available fuel and are largely unaffected. Supplies of industrial fuel for Gaza's power station and cooking gas have not been affected. Our Consulate-General in Jerusalem and the office of the Department for International Development in Jerusalem are following the situation closely.

### Iran: Nuclear Power

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Iranian nationals received training in Britain in nuclear-related disciplines in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [168448]

**David Miliband:** It is not possible to provide these figures, as universities are only required to supply data relating to the highest level of subject classification rather than a detailed course breakdown (e.g. number studying physics, rather than number studying nuclear physics). Similarly, universities are not obliged to provide nationality data, only the country of domicile.

However, through the voluntary vetting scheme and now the academic technology approval scheme (ATAS), we do have the means, and have used it, to stop Iranian applications for proliferation-sensitive subjects where there are concerns. Under ATAS, non-European economic area students intending to undertake postgraduate study in the UK in areas which have been identified as sensitive need to apply for counter-proliferation clearance from the Government before taking up their study.

### Iran: Sanctions

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on Iran, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166072]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

EU member states do not systematically share detailed information concerning the value of funds they have identified and frozen. However, they are legally obliged to freeze all funds and economic resources belonging to persons and entities listed under the sanctions regime. It is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to these persons and entities.

The reported balance of UK frozen funds in relation to UN and EU sanctions on Iran amounts to £512,982,378.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the Government's policy that credit guarantees on British exports to Iran should be curtailed; and if he will make a statement. [166127]

**David Miliband:** The Government, through the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), are not progressing applications for new cover for Iran. No new export credit guarantees have been issued for Iran since September 2006. As part of their work to increase multilateral sanctions against Iran, the Government are discussing ways of denying Iran access to export credit finance.

### Iraq: Christianity

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Iraq on the persecution of Christians in that country. [168493]

**Dr. Howells:** We recognise that Christians in Iraq, like all other communities, have been badly affected by the high levels of violence in the country. We continue to press the Iraqi government to take action to protect people regardless of faith or political persuasion and to take tough measures against those perpetuating the violence. I raised our concerns about the position of Iraqi Christians last month with the Iraqi Minister of Human Rights during her visit to the UK.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many personnel have been employed by private military security companies under contract to his Department in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [165894]

**David Miliband:** The number of personnel employed by companies under contract to the Government fluctuates during the contracted period as the Government's requirements change. Currently, Foreign and Commonwealth Office contracts require provision of 371 expatriate, third country national and local national personnel in Iraq and 530 expatriate, third country national and local national personnel in Afghanistan.

### Islam: Internet

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the costs were of the Radical Middle Way website in each year for which figures are available. [168435]

**Dr. Howells:** According to the organisers, the cost for the Radical Middle Way website for 2007-08 is £26,400. The total cost for website development from the Radical Middle Way's launch in February 2006 to its completion in March 2007 was £35,000.

### Middle East

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the itinerary of his recent visit to Israel and the occupied territories; and a list of his engagements. [167786]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories on 17 to 19 November 2007. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 20 November, *Official Report*, columns 127-128WS, which details the meetings he undertook.

### National Security

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement of the Prime Minster of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, what estimate he has made of the cost of the roadshows of mainstream Islamic scholarship to be held *(a)* in Britain and *(b)* abroad announced by the Prime Minster in (i) 2007 and (ii) in each year for which figures are available; and how he plans to assess the effectiveness of these roadshows. [168436]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government's contribution to the Radical Middle Way (RMW) in Britain project for financial year 2007-08 is £275,000, jointly funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Our contribution to the overseas element of RMW for financial year 2007-08 is £125,000. The total contribution from the Government for previous years, from RMW's launch in February 2006 to March 2007, was £412,129.24, jointly funded by the FCO and the Home Office.

The effectiveness of the project has been, and will continue to be, evaluated through both quantitative (attendance, website hits and uptake of RMW material) and qualitative (interviews with participants, partners and audiences) measures.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, if he will publish details of how the £400 million to be spent in the next three years by his Department on tackling radicalisation and promoting understanding overseas announced by the Prime Minister will be used; and how he plans to assess the effectiveness of this initiative. [168438]

**Dr. Howells:** As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, the Government will report back on action overseas with other countries to counter extremism when we launch the full national security strategy.

### North Korea: Sanctions

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on North Korea, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount is of assets frozen by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166048]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

EU sanctions on North Korea implement UN sanctions and to date no individuals or entities have been targeted for the assets freeze by the UN. Consequently the UK has not frozen any assets.

### Nuclear Disarmament

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the UK voted against the resolution Towards a Nuclear-weapon-free World: Accelerating the Implementation of Nuclear Disarmament Commitments at the UN First Committee on Disarmament and International Security on 17 October 2007; and if he will make a statement. [166997]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The United Kingdom abstained on rather than voted against this resolution at the UN General Assembly's First Committee. The resolution contained a great deal that we would have been happy to endorse. However, we remained unable to support the text because it gave no recognition to the significant nuclear disarmament achievements of most nuclear weapons states since the end of the cold war. We made this clear in an oral explanation given at the time of the vote, which will be deposited in the Library of the House.

### Nuclear Test Ban

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to encourage the governments of *(a)* China, *(b)* India and *(c)* the USA to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. [168607]

**Dr. Howells:** China and the US signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban treaty (CTBT) in 1996 but have not yet ratified it. India has neither signed nor ratified the treaty.

The United Kingdom strongly supports the earliest possible entry into force of the CTBT. We continue to take every appropriate opportunity, both bilaterally and through the EU, to urge all states who have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the CTBT without delay and without condition. We most recently took action with India in April 2007, with the US in September

2007, and agreed EU action with China in November 2007. The UK also continues to support the outreach activities of Ambassador Ramaker, the Special Representative of the ratifiers of the treaty, staff of the Provisional Technical Secretariat and the Executive Secretary of the CTBT. In addition, the UK actively participates in the annual events held under the provisions of article XIV of the treaty to facilitate entry into force.

### Occupied Territories

**Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he visited a Jewish settlement in the occupied west bank during his recent visit to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories; and if he will make a statement. [168568]

**Dr. Howells:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary informed the House that he did not visit any settlements during his recent visit to Israel, the occupied Palestinian territories and Egypt between 17 to 20 November. I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to him on 20 November, during Foreign and Commonwealth Office oral questions, *Official Report*, columns 1089-1090.

### Overseas Property

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what risk assessment his Department conducts in formulating advice to UK citizens purchasing property abroad; [168616]

(2) what criteria are used by his Department when conducting a risk assessment in formulating advice to UK citizens purchasing property abroad. [168617]

**Meg Munn:** Decisions on property purchases overseas are for the individuals concerned. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not get involved in purchases or disputes, nor can it offer legal advice to individuals planning to purchase property. We would always advise British citizens intending to purchase a property overseas to engage a local lawyer. Where we are aware of particular problems that have been encountered by significant numbers of purchasers we will provide general information in our travel advice for the country concerned. This information is based on the knowledge and experience of the relevant diplomatic posts.

### Portugal: European Council

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* his ministerial colleagues have made to their (i) Portuguese and (ii) Belgian counterparts on the decision to split the December meeting of the European Council between Lisbon and Brussels. [162081]

**David Miliband:** My hon. Friend the Minister for Europe and UK officials have discussed the location of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) with the Portuguese presidency. The Government prefer a single location for logistical and environmental reasons, but the location of any IGC is at the discretion of the presidency, while EU heads of state have agreed that all formal meetings of the European Council must take place in Brussels.

Carbon emissions from all central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset since April 2006.

### Saudi Arabia: Rape

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Saudi Arabian government in the case of the rape victim who was recently sentenced to 200 lashes and six months in prison; and if he will make a statement. [167877]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government have raised, and will continue to raise, this case with Saudi authorities.

The facts to hand on this case are disturbing. We will seek clarification on next steps, not least in light of the court's view that media attention has increased the level of the sentence. We are also concerned to hear that her lawyer has had his licence revoked for defending her case.

We urge the Saudi authorities to again review the case. Victims of sexual assault should not suffer further punishment.

### Sudan: Electoral Law

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Government of Sudan on its progress towards the enactment of an electoral law. [168170]

**Meg Munn:** We had encouraged the National Congress Party and Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the two largest parties, to agree the electoral law for approval by the Sudanese Parliament. Since the SPLM's withdrawal from the Government of National Unity, we have been urging both sides to continue dialogue on their differences on the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement, but the draft electoral law has not been one of the main sticking points.

We have provided technical support including assistance to draft the electoral bill presented to the Sudanese Parliament, a visit for Sudanese election officials to observe the Scottish elections, and equipment for the National Constitutional Review Commission, the committee responsible for drafting the legislation.

### Sudan: Sanctions

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on Sudan, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166074]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

EU member states do not systematically share detailed information concerning the value of funds they have identified and frozen. However, they are legally obliged to freeze all funds and economic resources belonging to persons listed under the sanctions regime. It is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to these persons.

To date no funds have been identified in the UK in relation to UN or EU sanctions on Sudan.

### Terrorism

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on his Department's proposed role over the next three years in tackling radicalisation and promoting understanding overseas, as referred to in the Statement by the Prime Minister on 14th November 2007. [167263]

**David Miliband:** As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-672, the Government will report back on action overseas with other countries to counter extremism when we launch the full national security strategy.

### UN Security Council

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what specific interim proposals for the reform of the UN Security Council the UK has proposed, as referred to in the Prime Minister's Mansion House speech of 12 November. [166134]

**David Miliband:** The UK is discussing permanent and interim reforms with a range of countries. The UK seeks a Security Council that is more representative of today's world, yet no less effective or capable of taking the tough decisions needed to address threats to international peace and security.

### Zimbabwe: Sanctions

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on Zimbabwe, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166076]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

EU member states do not systematically share detailed information concerning the value of funds they have identified and frozen. However, they are legally obliged to freeze all funds and economic resources belonging to persons listed under the sanctions regime. It is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to these persons.

The reported balance of UK frozen funds in relation to EU sanctions on Zimbabwe amounts to approximately £172,000.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Admiralty House

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the council tax band is of the official ministerial residence in Admiralty House occupied by Lord Malloch Brown. [165875]

**Edward Miliband:** The official residences in Admiralty House are in Westminster City Council Council Tax band H.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Minister previously occupied the official ministerial residence in Admiralty House occupied by Lord Malloch Brown. [165876]

**Edward Miliband:** The official residence currently occupied by my right hon. Friend Lord Malloch Brown was most recently occupied by my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott)

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on *(a)* repairs and *(b)* furnishing or refurbishing in each of the official ministerial residences in Admiral House in each of the last three years. [165877]

**Edward Miliband:** Occupying departments are responsible for the relevant costs associated with the ministerial residences in Admiralty House.

The Cabinet Office is responsible for costs associated with the common parts of Admiralty House as well as for maintaining the fabric of the entire building. These costs are not separately identifiable from the cost in relation to the whole building, which includes office space and meeting rooms.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down the Security and Intelligence Agencies' *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [166850]

**Edward Miliband:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answers given by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to the right hon. Member for West Dorset (Mr. Letwin) on 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 404W.

### Influenza

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what preparations have taken place for the co-ordinated relaxation of specific *(a)* regulations and *(b)* targets during any future outbreak of pandemic influenza; which (i) regulations and (ii) targets are being considered; and if he will make a statement. [168240]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

Over the last 12 months and during exercise Winter Willow, Government Departments, devolved administrations and agencies have begun to identify regulations that may need to be relaxed to ensure that essential services are sustained during a pandemic and/or to manage the consequences of a pandemic.

Regulations that have been identified will be kept under review as part of ongoing United Kingdom pandemic flu contingency planning.

Any requirement to amend specific regulations or targets will depend upon the nature and scale of any pandemic. Unfortunately this information will only become available during the pandemic.

It would therefore be unhelpful to focus on specific regulations or targets at this time.

**Official Hospitality: Charities**

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what Government policy is on the use of Government facilities for fundraising by registered charities; and if he will make a statement. [167665]

**Edward Miliband:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) by the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Hilary Armstrong) on 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1099W.

**Smith Institute**

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the value was of invoices sent by the Cabinet Office to the Smith Institute *(a)* since 27 June 2007 and *(b)* in 2006-07. [167666]

**Edward Miliband:** The Cabinet Office did not send any invoices to the Smith Institute in the periods to which the hon. Gentleman refers.

**Departmental Catering**

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in (i) the Cabinet Office and (ii) No.10 Downing Street were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166640]

**Gillian Merron:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made on 8 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 19-20WS, by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw).

**Departmental Foreign Workers**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Office. [168095]

**Gillian Merron:** Checks on nationality are carried out on recruitment to the Cabinet Office (including the Prime Minister's Office). The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Public Sector: Computer Software**

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions he has had on the use of Linux Open source computer software in the public sector. [165144]

**Gillian Merron:** None. The Government's approach to Open Source was set out in my reply to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 486W.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

**Alcohol Disorder Zones**

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the implementation of alcohol disorder zones under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006; and if she will make a statement. [167972]

**Mr. Coaker:** The regulations for Alcohol Disorder Zones were laid in Parliament on 21 November 2007. Subject to final approval, the regulations will commence in early January 2008.

**Alternatives to Prison: Cannabis**

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* antisocial behaviour orders, *(b)* police cautions and *(c)* official warnings for cannabis possession were issued in (i) England and (ii) each London borough in each year since 1997. [166936]

**Mr. Coaker:** Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) first became available in April 1999. The number of ASBOs issued in each year from April 1999 up to December 2005 (latest available) in (i) England (ii) London and (iii) each London borough can be found in the following tables. The number of ASBOs issued in Greater London shown in tables 1 and 2 differs due to the basis on which the ASBOs have been counted. Table 1 shows the number of ASBOs based on the location of the court that issued them and table 2 shows the number of ASBOs based on the local authority area in which the boundary prohibitions apply.

Data showing the number of offenders cautioned in England and London for all offences from 1997 to 2005 are in table 3. Data for 2006 will be available in late November 2007. The number of cautions issued in each London borough is not available, as police forces only supply cautions data for the whole of the force area.

The available information on formal warnings for cannabis possession (now known as cannabis warnings) is given in table 4. The data relate to the number of recorded offences detected by this method and are not available prior to 2004-05.

*Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, in Greater London and England by year, April 1999 to December 2005*

| Area | April 1999-May 2000 | June-December 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Total issued April 1999-December 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Greater London | 9 | 19 | 15 | 21 | 139 | 441 | 528 | 1,172 |
| England | 104 | 135 | 344 | 414 | 1,272 | 3,317 | 3,845 | 9,431 |

*Notes:*
1. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by period and where restrictions are imposed within a local authority area[1] within Greater London, up to 31 December 2005*

| | | | 1 January to 31 December | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Greater London | 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000[2] | 1 June to 31 December 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2005 |
| Greater London | 9 | 19 | 15 | 21 | 140 | 441 | 532 | 1,177 |
| Barking and Dagenham | n/a | — | — | — | 2 | 4 | 19 | 25 |
| Barnet | n/a | — | 2 | — | 1 | 10 | 9 | 22 |
| Bexley | n/a | 2 | — | 6 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 22 |
| Brent | n/a | — | — | — | 8 | 6 | 11 | 25 |
| Bromley | n/a | 1 | — | — | 5 | 3 | 5 | 14 |
| Camden | n/a | 5 | 1 | 10 | 30 | 57 | 69 | 172 |
| City of London Corp | n/a | — | — | — | — | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| Croydon | n/a | 1 | — | — | 7 | 8 | 10 | 26 |
| Ealing | n/a | — | — | — | 1 | 14 | 9 | 24 |
| Enfield | n/a | — | — | — | 2 | 4 | 15 | 21 |
| Greenwich | n/a | — | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 26 |
| Hackney | n/a | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 14 | 32 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | n/a | — | 2 | — | 4 | 12 | 16 | 34 |
| Haringey | n/a | — | — | — | 5 | 34 | 25 | 64 |
| Harrow | n/a | — | — | — | 1 | 12 | 2 | 15 |
| Havering | n/a | — | — | — | 1 | 9 | 19 | 29 |
| Hillingdon | n/a | — | — | — | — | 18 | 36 | 54 |
| Hounslow | n/a | — | — | — | 7 | 23 | 22 | 52 |
| Islington | n/a | — | — | — | 10 | 6 | 10 | 26 |
| Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough | n/a | — | — | — | 1 | 9 | 7 | 17 |
| Kingston-on-Thames | n/a | — | — | — | 4 | 4 | 5 | 13 |
| Lambeth | n/a | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 20 | 46 |
| Lewisham | n/a | — | 2 | — | 5 | 16 | 12 | 35 |
| Merton | n/a | — | — | 1 | 2 | 13 | 10 | 26 |
| Newham | n/a | — | 2 | — | — | 5 | 11 | 18 |
| Redbridge | n/a | — | — | — | 1 | 8 | 9 | 18 |
| Richmond upon Thames | n/a | — | — | — | 3 | 10 | 13 | 26 |
| Southwark | n/a | — | — | — | 8 | 11 | 18 | 37 |
| Sutton | n/a | 3 | — | — | 7 | 7 | 19 | 36 |
| Tower Hamlets | n/a | — | — | 1 | 3 | 16 | 36 | 56 |
| Waltham Forest | n/a | — | — | — | — | 15 | 11 | 26 |
| Wandsworth | n/a | — | — | — | 6 | 12 | 12 | 30 |
| Westminster | n/a | 6 | — | — | 6 | 38 | 35 | 85 |

n/a = not available
[1] This local authority area table differs from criminal justice system area (cjsa) tables in that an issuing court can be outside the area in which the restrictions have been imposed. For example, an issuing court may be in Kent (cjsa) but restrictions apply solely to a local authority area within London.
[2] Between 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa).
*Notes:*
1. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account.

*Number of offenders cautioned for all offences, in England and London, 1997 to 2005* [1,3]

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 263,712 | 268,779 | 247,846 | 222,750 | 214,161 | 210,552 | 225,013 | 241,873 | 283,578 |
| London [2] | 54,778 | 58,720 | 46,948 | 37,317 | 32,239 | 33,168 | 32,298 | 32,438 | 35,959 |

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] The London total is the number of offenders cautioned in the Metropolitan and City of London Police force areas.
[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons aged under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

*Offences detected by means of a cannabis warning[1]*

*Number of detections*

| *Area* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|
| England | 37,119 | 60,059 | 77,110 |
| London[2] | 13,665 | 21,722 | 30,927 |
| *London boroughs* | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | [3]— | 347 | 588 |
| Barnet | [3]— | 343 | 461 |
| Bexley | [3]— | 163 | 218 |
| Brent | [3]— | 2,125 | 1,978 |
| Bromley | [3]— | 247 | 373 |
| Camden | [3]— | 564 | 1,205 |
| City of Westminster | [3]— | 1,762 | 3,371 |
| Croydon | [3]— | 447 | 783 |
| Ealing | [3]— | 826 | 1,591 |
| Enfield | [3]— | 678 | 1,471 |
| Greenwich | [3]— | 558 | 579 |
| Hackney | [3]— | 1,077 | 1,138 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | [3]— | 409 | 735 |
| Haringey | [3]— | 922 | 1,540 |
| Harrow | [3]— | 308 | 408 |
| Havering | [3]— | 171 | 354 |
| Hillingdon | [3]— | 968 | 1,061 |
| Hounslow | [3]— | 353 | 635 |
| Islington | [3]— | 563 | 737 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | [3]— | 438 | 861 |
| Kingston upon Thames | [3]— | 114 | 204 |
| Lambeth | [3]— | 1,669 | 1,754 |
| Lewisham | [3]— | 614 | 922 |
| Merton | [3]— | 178 | 210 |
| Newham | [3]— | 1,001 | 776 |
| Redbridge | [3]— | 374 | 681 |
| Richmond upon Thames | [3]— | 141 | 220 |
| Southwark | [3]— | 1,245 | 1,549 |
| Sutton | [3]— | 157 | 190 |
| Tower Hamlets | [3]— | 547 | 1,004 |
| Waltham Forest | [3]— | 1,000 | 1,387 |
| Wandsworth | [3]— | 717 | 1,554 |
| Total | 13,160 | 21,026 | 30,538 |

[1] Prior to 16 January 2007 these were named 'Formal warnings for cannabis possession'.
[2] includes the City of London police and the Metropolitan police service.
[3] Data not available by borough for 2004-05.

## Antisocial Behaviour

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average number of recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour for each police officer was in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166938]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Antisocial behaviour is not, in itself, an offence as defined by statute. It is the outcome of incidents of antisocial behaviour that will be recorded as crimes by the police as appropriate e.g. criminal damage.

## Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders were issued in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire in each year since 2001. [167776]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The available information is shown in the following table:

*Number of ant-social behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, in the Lancashire Criminal Justice System area and Ribble Valley borough council[1] area by year, January 2001 to December 2005*

| *Area* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *Total issued January 2001 to December 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lancashire | 11 | 13 | 54 | 126 | 148 | 352 |
| Ribble Valley BC[1] | 1 | — | 2 | 3 | 6 | 12 |

[1] The local authority area is derived from the area in which the boundary prohibitions apply. The court that issued an ASBO can be outside the area in which the prohibitions have been imposed. For example, an issuing court may be in the North Yorkshire Criminal Justice System area, but restrictions apply solely to a local authority area within Lancashire.
*Notes:*
1. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
*Source:*
Prepared by RDS-OCJR

## Arson: Young People

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of arson were carried out by people under the age of 18 years who were convicted of such offences in each police force area in each year since 1997. [167012]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not held centrally. Offences of arson recorded by the police are collected by the Home Office but details of the age of the alleged offenders of such offences are not available.

Statistics on those convicted for arson offences are held by the Ministry of Justice.

### Crimes of Violence: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* incidents of violence against the person and *(b)* police emergency call-outs resulting from incidents occurring (i) on and (ii) in the vicinity of premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises under the Licensing Act 1964 there were in each year since 1997 in England and Wales, broken down by police force area. [166836]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office collects data on the number of offences of violence against the person recorded by the police. However, no information is collected centrally on the location of such incidents. Details of the location for emergency call-outs is not collected centrally.

### Firearms: North East Region

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents involving *(a)* replica firearms, *(b)* air rifles and *(c)* BB guns have been reported in (i) Teesside, (ii) the north-east and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [166593]

**Mr. Coaker:** Available information is given in the following table in which *(a)* 'replica firearms' are denoted as imitation firearms and *(b)* air rifles are incorporated within the figures for offences involving air weapons.

*(c)* Statistics on the number of offences involving BB guns have only been collected separately since April 2004. Data prior to that date are not available centrally.

Data collected centrally for recorded crime involving firearms in England and Wales are only available at police force area level. Information on Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland is therefore included within the north-east region which includes Cleveland, Northumbria and Durham police forces.

*Crimes recorded by Cleveland police and the north-east region[1] police force area in which firearms were reported to have been used ,by type of weapon, 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| *Weapon type* | *2001-02[2]* | *2002-03[3]* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Cleveland* | | | | | |
| Imitation firearms | 3 | 6 | 22 | 20 | 30 |
| Air weapons | 280 | 283 | 361 | 305 | 173 |
| BB guns | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | 19 | 29 |
| *North east region[1]* | | | | | |
| Imitation firearms | 43 | 51 | 147 | 147 | 109 |
| Air weapons | 879 | 806 | 887 | 739 | 516 |
| BB guns | [4]— | [4]— | [4]— | 111 | 91 |

[1] North east region includes Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police forces.
[2] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002.Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.
[4] Figures are not available centrally. Data were collected separately since April 2004.

### Human Trafficking: EC Action

**Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the EU anti-trafficking hotline. [164485]

**Mr. Coaker:** We fully recognise the need for trans-national work to combat human trafficking and welcome the continued efforts of the European Union in this area. However, we foresee some difficulties with a proposed EU hotline, including issues relating to the management and dissemination of information received and language difficulties. The value of an EU hotline over and above national arrangements and existing structures would have to be demonstrated.

### Human Trafficking: Prostitution

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of human trafficking for sexual purposes have been discovered in each of the last three years; from which countries the persons arrived; and how many successful prosecutions resulted. [165679]

**Mr. Coaker:** From 2003 to date, the Poppy Project has supported a total of over 253 women who were accepted as being victims of trafficking. These victims have their origins in a number of countries, however the top five countries of origin for referrals to the project are Lithuania, Albania, Nigeria, Thailand, and China.

The nationality of those convicted of trafficking and their victims are broadly similar with most originating from Eastern Europe, Africa, the Far East, the United Kingdom and South America.

Since the commencement of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 there have been 67 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation.

### Licensing: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licences to sell alcohol were revoked in each year since 1997 as a result of the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years in England and Wales, broken down by *(a)* police force area and *(b)* local authority area. [166834]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally.

Past and future statistical bulletins on licences to sell alcohol include the number of licences revoked, but do not indicate why. Licences may be revoked for a number of reasons or a variety of factors, including sales to children.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licences to sell alcohol were suspended for 48 hours in each year since 1997 as a result of the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years in England and Wales, broken down by *(a)* police force area and *(b)* local authority area. [166835]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I have been asked to reply.

The offence of persistently selling alcohol to children which can lead to a suspension of the permission to sell alcohol for 48 hours was introduced only in April 2007. No records are currently held centrally of the number of such actions taken.

### Police and Justice Act 2006

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to implement sections 19 to 21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. [167535]

**Mr. McNulty:** There is no date set yet for the commencement of Sections 19 to 21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. While not explicitly reviewing the role of partnerships or Overview & Scrutiny Committees and Community Call for Action, local accountability and local involvement arrangements are being reviewed by Sir Ronnie Flanagan as part of his wider review of policing. This review is scheduled to be published in the new year. Work will be taken forward thereafter to implement these sections.

### Police: Finance

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much on average a band D council tax payer in London paid towards policing costs in *(a)* 1996-97, *(b)* 1997-98, *(c)* 1998-99 and *(d)* 1999-2000; and if she will make a statement. [167245]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* The information requested is set out in the following table:

*Metropolitan Band D council tax*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 56.00 |
| 1997-98 | 63.27 |
| 1998-99 | 76.48 |
| 1999-2000 | 82.51 |

*Source:*
DCLG

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on levels of police funding for North Yorkshire. [167559]

**Mr. McNulty:** North Yorkshire police authority, like every other police authority in England and Wales, has received a sustained increase in police funding over the last 10 years. Total grants to North Yorkshire have increased by nearly £27 million (42.9 per cent.) since 1997-98.

### Police: Road Traffic Control

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many roadside checks for *(a)* speed, *(b)* use of seat belts and child restraints, *(c)* vehicle safety and roadworthiness and *(d)* influence of alcohol or drugs were conducted by each police force in each of the last three years. [167001]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Police: Rural Areas

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she introduced the rural policing grant; for how long a period it applies; how many police officer posts it has created; and how such posts will be funded once the grant ceases. [166964]

**Mr. McNulty:** The rural policing fund was introduced part way through 2000-01 when £15 million was made available to enhance the policing service in rural areas at no cost to the metropolitan forces. From 2001-02 the Fund rose to £30 million per annum benefiting 31 forces. All shire forces benefited except Cleveland, Hertfordshire, Nottinghamshire and South Wales.

In 2006-07 four former specific grants including the rural policing fund were amalgamated into a single special formula grant which can be used for any purpose.

### Police: Telephone Services

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the single non-emergency number in the five first wave areas; [167105]

(2) what representations she has received on funding for the single non-emergency number; [167106]

(3) how much her Department has spent on the single non-emergency number. [167107]

**Mr. McNulty:** Following consideration of the assessment of the programme Ministers have decided not to continue to directly fund the live single non-emergency areas but will continue to provide funding to support the national 101 routing infrastructure to ensure that the number remains available for use by local areas wishing to implement or develop their own locally funded 101 service.

Ministers acknowledge the many benefits achieved by the live areas. Evaluation and assessment of the 101 service found that it had successfully demonstrated the benefits it was intended to achieve around improving access to and delivery of local community safety services. Importantly, through better partnership working and information about what problems are happening where, it has also helped local police and councils to target their resources more effectively and efficiently. It is hoped that the lessons learned and good practice will be mainstreamed into local operations wherever possible.

Representations on funding were received from the existing live police and council partnership areas. These representations were taken into careful consideration in deciding the future for the 101 service.

The Home Office will have spent £41 million to the end of 2007-08 on the development, implementation, support and live operation of the 101 service. The good practice and lessons learned for improving local services from this work, together with continued funding support for the national 101 telephony infrastructure, will help to inform and support further improvements to community safety and the maintenance or development of locally funded 101 services in local areas.

### Robbery: Mobile Phones

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of robberies recorded involved the theft of a mobile telephone in each year since 1997. [166857]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on offences recorded by the police but thefts of mobile phones cannot be separately identified from thefts of other items.

### Security Guards: Licensing

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many security firms have made representations to her Department on the Security Industry Authority's licences; and what those representations were. [166476]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office receives regular and frequent correspondence on a range of matters relating to the work and remit of the Security Industry Authority (SIA). The representations cover a range of issues. Over the past year the most frequent subjects have been inquiries about individual licence applications, and responses to a consultation exercise on the future options for the licensing of private investigators.

### Serious Organised Crime Agency: Pensions

**Andrew Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what undertakings were given at the time of the formulation of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) to *(a)* serving and *(b)* former police officers or their representative body, the Public and Commercial Services Union, on the effect that SOCA would have on access to the police pension on attaining 30 years service or 50 years of age; and if she will make a statement. [165596]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* At the time of the formulation of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) it was stated that ex-police officers could retire from SOCA at whatever age their existing pension scheme allowed them to take their pension. Any decision to work beyond that point would be entirely optional and subject to mutual agreement between the individual and SOCA. Ex-police officers could retire from SOCA, take their lump sum and after a short break rejoin SOCA; but they would not be able to draw a full pension and a salary once they rejoined if this took them over their previous salary (i.e. abatement would apply). This was set out in SOCA Update Issue 13 and reiterated by the Director-General Designate at several road shows across the country.

It should be noted that SOCA is not a police force; however, arrangements were put in place to ensure that any police officer joining SOCA on 1 April 2006 under the Transfers to SOCA Scheme 2006, having been previously directly recruited into the NCS/NCIS on or before 31 March 2006, retained their entitlement to police allowances and membership of the police pension scheme.

### Sexual Assault Referral Centres: Finance

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what direct financial support her Department gives to each sexual assault referral centre in England and Wales; whether it is her policy that local police authorities should share in the costs of *(a)* establishing and *(b)* running sexual assault referral centres; what her policy is on whether the sexual assault referral centres should be partly financed by primary care trusts; what discussions she has had with the Department of Health about the centres; what guidelines her Department issues on (i) capital set up and (ii) running costs of the establishment of policies and procedures for sexual assault referral centres; what steps her Department is taking to encourage the establishment of sexual assault referral centres in England and Wales; how many sexual assault referral centres there are in England and Wales; and how they are financed. [165648]

**Mr. Coaker:** There are currently 19 Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) with a further 17 centres under development with the support of Home Office funding. The existing SARCs are primarily funded by police forces and primary care trusts, although funding sources and operating costs vary across the SARC network. The direct financial support for SARCs provided by the Home Office is set out in the attached table. In 2007-08 there have been three funding streams available to SARCs: capital start-up grants for new SARCs, grants to support the development of good practice in existing SARCs, and grants for independent sexual violence advisers based in SARCs.

"National Service Guidelines on Developing SARCs", published jointly by the Home Office and the Department of Health in 2005, make clear that the primary responsibility for establishing and running SARCs sits with police forces and Primary Care Trusts, although they also encourage Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to support the development of SARCs through local area agreements. These guidelines also provide guidance on the set up and running costs of SARCs. Guidance on policies and procedures is provided in "Getting Started" guidance produced by the National SARC Steering Group and updated in 2006. The Home Office also employs an expert consultant in SARC development to assist those setting up SARCs with establishing partnerships, costing proposals and developing operating procedures.

The Home Office and Department of Health engage in regular discussions about SARC development and are working in partnership to develop guidance for primary care trusts and local authorities on commissioning services for victims of sexual violence, including SARCs. Ministers from both Departments sit on the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Sexual Offending, which includes the development of SARCs within its remit.

The Government have encouraged the development of SARCs through the publication of guidelines, the provision of start-up funding, the work of the expert consultant, and practitioner workshops. In October the Government published in draft the National Indicator Set for Local Strategic Partnerships which will be in operation from 2008-09. This included an indicator on access to support services for victims of serious sexual

offences, including services provided by SARCs. We have also made clear through the new Making Communities Safer public service agreement that tackling serious sexual offences, including through the provision of support services to victims to reduce harm, is a priority for the Government.

*Home Office funding allocation to Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in England and Wales*

| *Police force area* | *SARC location* | *Funding from the Home Office in 2007-08 (£)* | *Start-up funding from the Home Office in previous years (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | Bristol (under development)[1] | — | 70,000 in 2006-07 |
| Cheshire | Crewe or Warrington (under development)[1] | 75,000 (start-up) | — |
| Cleveland | Middlesbrough | — | 70,000 in 2005-06 |
| Devon and Cornwall | Plymouth (under development)[1] | 75,000 (start-up) | — |
| | Exeter (under development)[1] | — | 70,000 in 2006-07 |
| Derbyshire | Codner | 23,500 (counsellors)<br>20,000 (Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA)) | 20,000 in 2003-04 |
| Dorset | Bournemouth (under development)[1] | — | 70,000 in 2006-07 |
| Durham | Durham | 18,996 (counselling) | 70,000 in 2005-06 |
| Dyfed-Powys | Carmarthen | — | 70,000 in 2006-07 |
| Gloucestershire | Gloucester (under development)[1] | 75,000 (start-up) | — |
| Greater Manchester | Manchester | 24,675 (database)<br>20,000 (ISVA) | — |
| Gwent | Risca (near Newport) | 20,000 (ISVA) | 70,000 in 2005-06 |
| Hampshire | Portsmouth | 25,000 (young person's health care support worker) | 50,000 in 2003-04<br>20,000 in 2006-07 |
| Humberside | Hull (under development)[1] | 75,000 (start-up) | — |
| Kent | Dartford | 25,000 (equipment and training) | 30,000 in 2003-04 |
| Lancashire | Preston | 20,000 (ISVA)<br>24,623 (child advocate and training) | — |
| Leicestershire | Leicester | — | — |
| London Metropolitan | Camberwell | 20,000 (ISVA) | — |
| | Paddington | 20,000 (ISVA) | — |
| | | 10,000 (client booklet) | — |
| | Whitechapel | 20,000 (ISVA) | — |
| Merseyside | Liverpool (under development)[1] | 75,000 (start-up) | — |
| Norfolk | Norwich (under development)[1] | — | 40,000 in 2006-07 |
| North Wales | Colwyn Bay (under development)[1] | — | 70,000 in 2005-06 |
| Northumbria | Newcastle/Sunderland | 25,000 (marketing materials and forensics) | — |
| Nottinghamshire | Nottingham | — | 70,000 in 2006-07 |

*Home Office funding allocation to Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in England and Wales*

| *Police force area* | *SARC location* | *Funding from the Home Office in 2007-08 (£)* | *Start-up funding from the Home Office in previous years (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| South Wales | Merthyr Tydfil Cardiff (under development)[1] | 20,000 (ISVA) | 70,000 in 2004-05<br>70,000 in 2006-07 |
| South Yorkshire | Rotherham (open for children, under development[1] for adults) | 75,000 (start-up) | 70,000 in 2006-07 (children) |
| Staffordshire | Stafford (under development)[1] | — | 26,000 in 2005-06 |
| Sussex | Crawley (under development)[1] | — | 70,000 in 2006-07 |
| Thames Valley | Aylesbury (under development)[1] | — | 70,000 in 2006-07 |
| West Midlands | Walsall | 20,000 (ISVA) | 50,000 in 2003-04 |
| West Yorkshire | Kirklees (under development)[1] | — | 70,000 in 2005-06 |
| | Calderdale (under development)[1] | — | 70,000 in 2005-06 |
| Wiltshire | Swindon | 20,000 (ISVA)<br>25,000 (crisis workers) | 70,000 in 2005-06 |
| England and Wales | — | 806,794 | 1,426,000 |

[1] Under development means that funding has been provided from the Home Office for start-up costs but the SARC is still in the process of setting up.

### Speed Limits: Cameras

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mobile camera speed checks were carried out in each police force area in each of the last five years. [166883]

**Mr. Coaker:** This information is not collected centrally.

### Terrorism: Control Orders

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females issued with control orders under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 were resident in Southend in each year since the Act came into force, broken down by age group. [167432]

**Mr. McNulty:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 203W.

### Theft: Bicycles

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the ratio between the *(a)* recorded and *(b)* actual levels of theft of bicycles. [166933]

**Mr. McNulty:** The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely collects information on whether victims report crimes to the police and these are published annually by the Home Office in their statistics bulletin 'Crime in England and Wales'. The most recent published figures show that 36 per cent. of BCS incidents of bicycle theft were reported to the police.

### Video Games: Young People

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded in respect of retailers selling video games or DVDs to underage customers in England and Wales in each year since 1997, broken down by police force area; how many *(a)* police cautions and *(b)* fines were issued; and what the average fine levied was. [166838]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on the number of recorded offences of retailers selling video games or DVDs to underage customers is not collected centrally. This is a summary offence and is not included in the police recorded crime statistics.

Statistics on the number of police cautions issued, the number of fines imposed and the average fines have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and are given in the following table for 1997 to 2005. Data for 2006 are due for publication in late November.

*Offenders[1] cautioned and fined for supplying video recording of classified work in breach of classification[2]*

| | *Number of police cautions issued* | *Number of fines imposed* | *Average fine amount (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1 | 15 | 519 |
| 1998 | — | 18 | 440 |
| 1999 | — | 33 | 798 |
| 2000 | — | 16 | 1,028 |
| 2001 | — | 9 | 1,378 |
| 2002 | — | 12 | 1,079 |
| 2003 | 1 | 14 | 921 |
| 2004 | — | 6 | 775 |
| 2005 | — | 8 | 489 |

[1] These data are on a principal offence basis.
[2] Video Recording Act 1984 S.11 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 19945.88(4).
*Note:*
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
*Source:*
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Adult Education: Parents

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has commissioned research on the relationship between adult and community learning and the educational attainment of the children of those involved in such learning. [164460]

**Mr. Lammy** *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply:

Within Adult Safeguarded Learning, the Family Learning programme involves parents in supporting their children's learning and aims to develop the skills and knowledge of both the adult and the child. We are committed to widening family and inter-generational learning and to building links between adult learning and our agendas on parenting, children and extended schools. We have not commissioned research which looks specifically at the relationship between adult and community learning and child attainment but the Centre for Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning (which the Department manages jointly with DCSF) has produced a number of reports on the relationship between parental learning in general and children's education: "A model of the inter-generational transmission of educational success" by Leon Feinstein, Kathryn Duckworth and Ricardo Sabates (2004); "Does education have an impact on mothers' educational attitudes and behaviours?" by Leon Feinstein and Ricardo Sabates (2006); and "Are there effects of mothers' post-16 education on the next generation?" by Leon Feinstein and Kathryn Duckworth (2006). The Centre for the Economics of Education (also jointly managed by DIUS and DCSF) has also published research on family learning such as "Parent's education and child's education: a natural experiment" by Arnaud Chevalier (2004).

### Children in Care

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many babies aged under one year were taken into social care as a consequence of *(a)* interim full care orders and *(b)* police or emergency protection orders in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [164705]

(2) how many *(a)* babies, *(b)* children and *(c)* young people were taken into care in each region in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [164710]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average time taken to place children for adoption in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [164703]

**Kevin Brennan:** The numbers of children looked after who were taken into care in England, aged under one year and who were subject to interim and full care orders or police or emergency protection orders, during the years ending 31 March 1997 to 2007, are shown in table 1.

Information on the number of children looked after who were taken into care, broken down by age, in each region since 1997 is not readily available. However, information on the number of children who started to be looked after by age on starting and by local authority, during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007, has been published and can be found respectively in tables C1 and LAC1 at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml

A copy of table C1 (table 2) follows and an edited version of table LAC1 (table 3) showing regional figures only is also shown. A local authority level table, including regional breakdowns, on children who started to be looked after broken down by age on starting for 2007 will be published at the same web address on 29 November.

Information on the average time between a child entering care and the various stages of the adoption process has only been published since 2004 and is therefore not readily available prior to that. The following table 4 is derived from table E3 of the previously mentioned publication, and summarises the average time between entry into care and placement for adoption for years ending 31 March 2004 to 2007.

*Table 1: Children aged under one year who were taken into care on an interim or full care order and under a police or emergency protection order in the years ending 31 March 1997 to 2007[1,2,3,4], England*

*Number*

| *Year ending 31 March* | *All children who were taken into care aged under one[5]* | *Children who were taken into care aged under one: Under an interim or full care order* | *Children who were taken into care aged under one: Under a police or emergency protection order* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1,300 | 740 | 600 |
| 1998 | 1,400 | 830 | 610 |
| 1999 | 1,600 | 930 | 690 |
| 2000 | 1,900 | 1,100 | 770 |
| 2001 | 1,800 | 1,200 | 610 |
| 2002 | 1,900 | 1,200 | 730 |
| 2003 | 2,000 | 1,300 | 660 |
| 2004 | 2,000 | 1,300 | 710 |
| 2005 | 2,000 | 1,300 | 730 |
| 2006 | 2,100 | 1,400 | 720 |
| 2007 | 2,100 | 1,500 | 580 |

[1] Source DfES, SSDA903 return which between in 1997 and since 2004 covered all children looked after by local authorities. SSDA903 covered only a one-third sample of children looked after by local authorities between 1998 and 2003.
[2] Figures for children looked after in this table exclude agreed series of short-term placements.
[3] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[5] Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

*Table 2: Table C1: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007 by gender, age on starting, category of need and ethnic origin[1,2,3,4], England*

| | Number | | | | | Percentage | | | | Number and percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2003[5] | 2004[6] | 2005[6] | 2006[6] | 2007[6] | 2003[5] | 2004[6] | 2005[6] | 2006[6] | 2007[6] |
| All children who started to be looked after[1,2,3] | 24,900 | 25,000 | 24,900 | 24,600 | 23,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Gender | 24,900 | 25,000 | 24,900 | 24,600 | 23,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Male | 13,500 | 13,400 | 13,300 | 13,300 | 13,100 | 54 | 53 | 53 | 54 | 55 |
| Female | 11,500 | 11,600 | 11,600 | 11,300 | 10,700 | 46 | 47 | 47 | 46 | 45 |
| Age on starting (years) | 24,900 | 25,000 | 24,900 | 24,600 | 23,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Under 1 | 3,900 | 4,100 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,400 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 1 to 4 | 4,700 | 4,600 | 4,500 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 17 | 18 |
| 5 to 9 | 4,800 | 4,400 | 4,300 | 4,100 | 3,900 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 16 |
| 10 to 15 | 10,500 | 10,500 | 10,100 | 9,800 | 9,200 | 42 | 42 | 40 | 40 | 39 |
| 16 and over | 1,000 | 1,400 | 1,700 | 2,100 | 1,900 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| Category of need[7] | 24,900 | 25,000 | 24,900 | 24,600 | 23,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Abuse or neglect | 12,200 | 12,000 | 12,100 | 11,500 | 11,300 | 49 | 48 | 48 | 47 | 48 |
| Child's disability | 800 | 730 | 780 | 820 | 710 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Parent's illness or disability | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,300 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| Family in acute stress | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,900 | 2,800 | 2,800 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 12 |
| Family dysfunction | 3,200 | 3,400 | 3,100 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 14 |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour | 1,700 | 1,600 | 1,400 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Low income | 80 | 70 | 80 | 70 | 80 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Absent parenting | 2,400 | 2,700 | 2,900 | 3,400 | 3,100 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 13 |
| Ethnic origin | 24,900 | 25,000 | 24,900 | 24,600 | 23,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| *White* | | | | | | | | | | |
| White British | 18,300 | 17,700 | 17,400 | 16,600 | 16,000 | 73 | 71 | 70 | 67 | 67 |
| White Irish | 240 | 140 | 160 | 150 | 130 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other White background | 880 | 870 | 850 | 820 | 860 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| *Mixed* | | | | | | | | | | |
| White and Black Caribbean | 670 | 710 | 680 | 650 | 580 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| White and Black African | 190 | 210 | 200 | 190 | 180 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| White and Asian | 320 | 290 | 260 | 280 | 290 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other mixed background | 680 | 760 | 760 | 760 | 700 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| *Asian or Asian British* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indian | 160 | 160 | 130 | 160 | 130 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pakistani | 270 | 280 | 350 | 290 | 340 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bangladeshi | 140 | 150 | 170 | 160 | 170 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other Asian background | 170 | 320 | 540 | 800 | 790 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| *Black or Black British* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caribbean | 760 | 780 | 690 | 710 | 610 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| African | 1,100 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,400 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| Any other Black background | 390 | 420 | 450 | 460 | 450 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| *Other ethnic groups* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chinese | 60 | 90 | 80 | 120 | 170 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Any other ethnic group | 580 | 620 | 690 | 800 | 920 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 |

[1] Source SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.
[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.
[4] Historical data may differ from older publications This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[5] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.
[6] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
[7] The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" (i.e. the reason why the child is receiving social services) at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the reason they are looked after.

*Table 3: Table LAC1: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4], England*

Number

| | 2003[5] | 2004[6] | 2005[6] | 2006[6] | 2007[6] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 24,900 | 25,000 | 24,900 | 24,600 | 23,700 |
| *Region* | | | | | |
| North-east | 1,310 | 1,480 | 1,440 | 1,480 | 1,440 |
| North-west | 3,500 | 3,640 | 3,690 | 3,590 | 3,490 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2,670 | 2,360 | 2,550 | 2,400 | 2,460 |
| East Midlands | 1,620 | 1,720 | 1,540 | 1,540 | 1,480 |
| West Midlands | 2,990 | 2,690 | 2,790 | 2740 | 2,760 |
| East of England | 2,130 | 2,310 | 2,140 | 2,070 | 1,900 |
| London | 5,020 | 5,410 | 5,270 | 5,400 | 5,050 |
| Inner London | 2,480 | 2,680 | 2,340 | 2,380 | 2,110 |
| Outer London | 2,550 | 2,730 | 2,930 | 3,020 | 2,940 |
| South-east | 3,120 | 2,900 | 3,160 | 3,180 | 3,040 |
| South-west | 2,490 | 2,500 | 2,330 | 2,190 | 2,110 |

[1] Source SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.
[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[5] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[6] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which since 2003-04 covered all children looked after.

*Table 4: Average time between child starting to be looked after and being placed for adoption for years ending 31 March 2004 to 2007, England*

Years:months

| Age at start of period of care | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | Average time between entry into care and adoption placement for all years |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All ages | 1:8 | 1:8 | 1:8 | 1:8 | 1:8 |
| Under 1 | 1:3 | 1:3 | 1:4 | 1:5 | 1:4 |
| 1 | 1:10 | 2:0 | 2:0 | 2:0 | 2:0 |
| 2 | 2:1 | 2:0 | 2:0 | 2:0 | 2:0 |
| 3 | 2:1 | 2:2 | 2:2 | 2:3 | 2:2 |
| 4 | 2:4 | 2:4 | 2:2 | 2:4 | 2:4 |
| 5 | 2:3 | 2:4 | 2:6 | 2:3 | 2:4 |
| 6 | 2:5 | 2:10 | 2:6 | 3:0 | 2:8 |
| 7 and over | 2:9 | 2:7 | 2:8 | 2:11 | 2:9 |

*Source:*
SSDA903 return on children looked after

## Children in Care: Greater London

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in the care of local authorities in Greater London were housed outside the borough responsible for their care in the latest period for which figures are available. [167562]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested can be found in table 22 of the statistical volume entitled Children Looked After by Local Authorities, Year Ending 31 March 2006 accessible at:
http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000721/index.shtml
An edited version of table 22 is shown as follows:

*Edited version of table 22: Children looked after at 31 March 2006 by placement in or out of local authority's area at 31 March 2006[1,2,3,4,5,6]—England*

Number

| | Children for whom local authority is responsible | | | | Placement of children | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All children[3] | Placed within LA boundary[3] | Placed outside LA boundary[3] | Area of placement unknown[3,4] | External children placed within LA boundary[5] | All children placed within LA boundary[6] | Net gain of children by responsible LA[6] |
| London | 11,770 | 4,240 | ,980 | 550 | 4,510 | 8,750 | -3,020 |
| Inner London | 5,750 | 1,720 | 3,740 | 280 | 1,580 | 3,300 | -2,440 |
| Camden | 345 | 95 | 245 | 5 | 60 | 150 | -190 |
| City of London | 20 | 0 | 20 | 0 | — | — | -20 |
| Hackney | 465 | 125 | 300 | 40 | 120 | 245 | -225 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 385 | 130 | 230 | 25 | 25 | 155 | -230 |
| Haringey | 480 | 175 | 295 | 10 | 175 | 350 | -130 |
| Islington | 400 | 100 | 285 | 20 | 115 | 210 | -190 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 230 | 65 | 150 | 15 | 35 | 100 | -130 |
| Lambeth | 660 | 180 | 460 | 20 | 280 | 460 | -205 |
| Lewisham | 485 | 210 | 265 | 10 | 305 | 510 | 30 |
| Newham | 685 | 205 | 450 | 30 | 160 | 365 | -320 |
| Southwark | 640 | 220 | 390 | 30 | 140 | 360 | -285 |
| Tower Ham lets | 375 | 90 | 250 | 35 | 45 | 135 | -245 |
| Wandsworth | 275 | 95 | 155 | 25 | 90 | 185 | -90 |
| Westminster | 295 | 40 | 240 | 15 | 35 | 75 | -220 |

*Edited version of table 22: Children looked after at 31 March 2006 by placement in or out of local authority's area at 31 March 2006[1,2,3,4,5,6]—England*

*Number*

| | *Children for whom local authority is responsible* | | | | *Placement of children* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All children[1]* | *Placed within LA boundary[2]* | *Placed outside LA boundary[2]* | *Area of placement unknown[2,4]* | *External children placed within LA boundary[5]* | *All children placed within LA boundary[6]* | *Net gain of children by responsible LA[6]* |
| Outer London | 6,020 | 2,520 | 3,240 | 270 | 2,930 | 5,450 | -570 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 370 | 115 | 245 | 10 | 65 | 180 | -190 |
| Barnet | 375 | 140 | 220 | 10 | 100 | 240 | -135 |
| Bexley | 210 | 110 | 95 | 5 | 160 | 270 | 60 |
| Brent | 400 | 190 | 200 | 15 | 265 | 455 | 50 |
| Bromley | 285 | 130 | 140 | 15 | 155 | 290 | — |
| Croydon | 805 | — | 405 | — | 490 | 880 | 80 |
| Ealing | 455 | 220 | 210 | 25 | 170 | 390 | -65 |
| Enfield | 295 | 130 | 145 | 20 | 250 | 380 | 85 |
| Greenwich | 525 | 165 | 340 | 20 | 180 | 350 | -180 |
| Harrow | 175 | 85 | 80 | 5 | 125 | 210 | 35 |
| Havering | 200 | 85 | 100 | 15 | 120 | 205 | 5 |
| Hillingdon | 635 | 215 | 370 | 45 | 100 | 315 | -315 |
| Hounslow | 335 | 120 | 185 | 30 | 65 | 190 | -150 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 90 | 40 | 40 | 5 | 25 | 65 | -20 |
| Merton | 110 | 60 | 45 | 5 | 120 | 180 | 70 |
| Redbridge | 165 | 95 | 60 | 10 | 190 | 285 | 120 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 90 | — | 55 | — | 25 | 50 | -40 |
| Sutton | 145 | 40 | 95 | 10 | 70 | 115 | -30 |
| Waltham Forest | 360 | 150 | 200 | 15 | 250 | 400 | 40 |

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[3] Children who are the responsibility of the LA.
[4] Placement is not known or not collected (not collected where child placed for adoption).
[5] Children who are the responsibility of another LA.
[6] Figures exclude children whose LA of placement is not known.

*Notes:*

1. Rounding and suppression—to ensure that no individual child can be identified, we have used the following conventions throughout the tables:
Regional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10
Local authority figures have been rounded to the nearest 5
Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen (—). Zero (0) is shown only when the number submitted was zero.
2. At 31 March 2006, 6,980 children looked after by local authorities in Greater London were placed outside the area of the local authority responsible for their care. This represents 59 per cent. of all the children looked after by local authorities in Greater London.

*Source:*

Information on children looked after by local authorities is collected for the period 1 April to 31 March in the annual SSDA903 return which is completed by 150 local authority social services departments in England.

## Children: Disabled

**Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he had with the Scottish Executive on the allocation of additional funding to Scotland for expenditure on disabled children and their families arising from the Government's response to the 2006 review of support for disabled children and their families, Aiming High for Disabled Children; and if he will make a statement. [168295]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 26 November2007]:* No discussion between the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and Scottish Executive Ministers has occurred on this matter.

Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales should receive settlements which reflect the increased CSR settlement for education and children's services in England announced at the time of the 2006 Budget. As part of this settlement, the Department has allocated £340 million to improve services for disabled children in England. This is equivalent to an increase of £34 million, £11 million and £20 million respectively for Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales. However, it will be up to the devolved Administrations to decide how much of their overall allocation should be directed to services for disabled children.

## Children: Protection

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average length of time was which children whose safety had been identified as a possible cause for concern were required to wait for an initial assessment by social services in each local authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [166149]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Data are not currently collected on the length of time children wait for an initial assessment by children's social care services. Data are collected on what proportion of initial assessments are completed within the target timescale which is seven working days of children being referred to children's social care. The figure for 2006-07 was 68 per cent. within the target timescale.

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what practical information and guidance will be given to local authorities to enable them to achieve good practice in relation to the new performance indicators for safeguarding children. [167149]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* The Government will provide guidance to local authorities on the operation of the national indicator set. It is now consulting on the detailed definitions of the set to ensure that the methodology for measuring individual national indicators at a local level is sound. The consultation seeks views on the methodology, frequency of reporting and data source of each individual indicator. The consultation can be accessed from:

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/performanceframeworkpartnerships/nationalindicators/

and closes on 21 December.

In addition, on 20 November the Government published the second phase of the operational guidance to support the negotiation of local area agreements (LAAs). It explains how local strategic partnerships can use their local vision, evidence and the radically streamlined national indicator set to develop their LAA. It highlights the importance of engaging with councillors, communities, voluntary groups and businesses to agree shared priorities, a timetable for implementation and the new, more flexible arrangements for performance management and area based grant. The guidance is available on:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/laaoperationalguidance

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether all local authorities will be required to comply with all the new indicators for the local authority performance framework on safeguarding children. [167150]

**Kevin Brennan:** All top tier local authorities and their strategic partners will have to report back at least annually on their performance against all 198 cross-Government indicators in the new national set, which was published on 11 October 2007.

In addition, each area will agree with Government up to 35 improvement targets—plus the 16 statutory education and early years targets—drawn from indicators in the national set. Local areas may also set themselves an unlimited number of local targets which will not be subject to central performance monitoring and which need not be drawn from the national indicator set.

From 2009 performance against all 198 national indicators will be published each year by the Audit Commission, as part of the inspectorates' comprehensive area assessment of local authorities. This will also report on each local authority's direction of travel and use of resources and will assess risks in the area.

### Children: Speech Impaired

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps are being taken by *(a)* the Children's Workforce Development Council, *(b)* the Training and Development Agency and *(c)* the Children's Workforce Network to define competencies for the children's work force on supporting children with speech, language and communication difficulties; and if he will make a statement; [165910]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the web portal developed by the Children's Workforce Development Council to assist the children's work force support children with speech, language and communication difficulties; [165911]

(3) what assessment has been made by the Children's Workforce Development Council of the merits of including speech, language and communication in *(a)* the Qualifications and Credit Framework and *(b)* the Integrated Qualifications Framework; what discussions his Department has had with the Children's Workforce Development Council on including speech, language and communication into these frameworks; and if he will make a statement. [165912]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Children's Workforce Network is working together to consider the needs of children and young people with a range of disabilities including speech, language and communication. A key part of this work is embedding the common core for children, young people and families in all qualifications which support the children's work force. The common core sets out the skills needed to communicate effectively with children and young people.

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is also working with the Network to consider future action to ensure that the work force has the right skills and qualifications to meet the needs of children and young people with disabilities. The Training and Development Agency has developed new National Occupational Standards for Supporting Teaching and Learning in schools which were developed in consultation with practitioners and include a specialist unit 'Support pupils with communication and interaction needs'.

The Integrated Qualifications Framework (IQF) is currently in its testing phase and will not be fully operational until 2010. A suite of generic cross sector qualification units, based on the Common Core of Skills and Knowledge has been developed for the IQF. It is currently available as part of the test and trial of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) being developed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. CWDC is working with partners, including DCSF and DIUS, who has responsibility for the QCF, to consider what else needs to be done to address the needs of children and young people with disabilities.

CWDC's web-based portal was launched on 26 September. It was developed with support from a wide range of partners and has been welcomed by practitioners. It is too early to say what impact it will have on the work force but CWDC is now working with partners to assess its use and consider how it can be further developed to ensure that the work force has access the right training and qualifications.

The Government have commissioned a review of services to children and young people with speech, language and communication needs, led by the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow). It is examining work force issues in this area. The hon.

Member will produce an interim report in March 2008 and a final report, including recommendations to the Government, in July 2008. Contributions to the review can be made at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/bercowreview/index.shtml

### Common Assessment Framework: Expenditure

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of spending on the Common Assessment Framework for each year from 2007-08 to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [166340]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Common Assessment Framework process is part of the wide range of reforms under the ECM agenda, and so the costs are not identified separately. The allocation for ECM implementation is £63 million in 2007-08. This is part of the Children's Services grant (2007-08: £193 million).

Introduction of the CAF is designed to be cost neutral with minimal implementation costs offset by anticipated efficiencies arising from improved ways of working.

### Cumbria

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166570]

**Kevin Brennan:** There are no plans for the Department for Children, Schools and Families to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which items in his Department's budget have been reclassified, according to the classifications in HM Treasury's Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, as a result of the decisions taken in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review; what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case; and what activity is supported by each item. [164491]

**Kevin Brennan:** There are two such items that have been reclassified with HMT agreement as a result of the comprehensive spending review (CSR) 2007:

Academies Delivery—the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance (Chapter 4) permits the costs of direct frontline service provision or support activities that are directly associated with frontline service delivery within Departments to be classified as programme expenditure. In keeping with this, the Treasury has agreed to reclassify the costs of the Academies delivery function within the Department which has a value of £3.72 million in 2007-08.

Consultancy—as a result of discussions with HMT about the classification of consultancy costs in the light of the 2007 Consolidated Budgeting Guidance (Chapter 4), the Department has reclassified £2.8 million of such costs from programme to administration with effect from 2008-09.

In addition to these two items, the Department is exploring with HMT a case to score as programme some staff early release costs resulting from the commitment in the comprehensive spending review to deliver real terms savings of 5 per cent. year on year in administration costs. The Consolidated Budgeting Guidance (Chapter 4) permits such payments to be exceptionally scored as programme rather than administration where a case explicitly linked to improved efficiency has been agreed in advance with the Treasury.

The detail of all classification changes will be published in chapter 3 of the 2008 edition of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses.

### Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164293]

**Kevin Brennan:** All public procurement procedures must comply with the EC Treaty. The key principles of the Treaty, from a public procurement point of view, are the free movement of goods and services, and non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality. This legislation is designed to ensure that all public procurement across the European Union is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory.

This means that this Department cannot specify that it will only buy goods (e.g. wine) from a particular country or locality, as that would discriminate against procedures from other EU member states.

However, the Government are committed to increase opportunities for small and local suppliers to tender for contracts, thus increasing competition and securing better value for money. This Department does this by advertising appropriate contracts on Contrax Online and Supply2gov and by reducing bureaucracy in the procurement process.

### Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in his Department and its predecessors earned over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167186]

**Kevin Brennan:** The numbers of staff earning £100,000 or more for my and predecessor Departments since 2004 is provided as follows. Information before 2004, can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | *Number of people* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 15 |
| 2005 | 27 |
| 2006 | 23 |
| 2007 | 20 |

### Departmental Public Consultation

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on *(a)* citizens' juries, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other deliberative forms of public opinion research in each month since January 2006. [166585]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The Department for Children, Schools and Families has conducted five citizen's juries since January 2006. The cost for the first jury in Bristol was £5,7047 inc. VAT. The total costs for the four deliberative debates in London, Leeds, Portsmouth and Birmingham was 467,704 inc vat.

*(b)* The Department also ran nine focus groups as part of the Time to Talk consultation in Sutton, Birmingham and Sheffield with children aged 11 to 16 to capture their views on the key issues and challenges. The total costs for the nine focus groups was £18,835.25 inc. VAT, this included the facilitation, analysis, and production of a short film of the events. Data on other focus groups since January 2006 are not readily available as we do not classify our research expenditure in this way, so we cannot break it down by these categories. To gather the information in such a way would incur disproportionate costs.

*(c)* The Department has not conducted any other deliberative debates since January 2006.

### Departmental Public Consultations

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many citizens juries were arranged for his Department and its predecessors for each year between 1997 and June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens jury; and what the cost was of each. [163597]

**Kevin Brennan:** My Department did not arrange any citizens juries between 1997 and June 2007.

### Departmental Stationary

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much Department for Children, Schools and Families headed notepaper his Department has bought; and at what cost. [166908]

**Kevin Brennan:** The number of letter headed note paper purchased for Department for Children, Schools and Families was 281,000 sheets and the total spend was £5,262.35 for the period 28 June 2007 to 20 November 2007.

### Dyslexia

**Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the research his Department has commissioned on *(a)* the incidence of dyslexia and *(b)* the ways in which the condition affects families. [165866]

**Kevin Brennan:** Data have been collected in the School Census since 2004 on the primary types of need of children with statements and at School Action Plus—where the school involves external support or advice to meet the child's needs. Figures for January 2007 for pupils in schools with a specific learning difficulty (which includes dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia) show that there are 75,920 pupils either with a statement of SEN or supported at School Action Plus. The Department has not commissioned further research into the incidence of dyslexia.

To identify and disseminate best practice in improving outcomes for children with dyslexia, we are working with the British Dyslexia Association, Dyslexia Action, Xtraordinary People and the Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties on the No to Failure Project. This project is supporting schools in three local authority areas to become project trailblazers, where children are being screened for dyslexia and individual specialist tuition is then provided to those who are identified as having dyslexia. The impact of this approach on outcomes is being evaluated. The project is also evaluating the impact of providing specialist dyslexia training for teachers, developing examples of good practice which can be extended nationally, and raising awareness of dyslexia as a learning difficulty. We are providing up to £900,000 funding over three years to support this project.

### Extended Schools

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* primary schools offered the full range of extended services in each local authority in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [167871]

**Beverley Hughes:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Basingstoke (Mrs. Miller) on 21 November, *Official Report*, column 955W.

### Health Education: Alcoholic Drinks

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that young people receive adequate information on the effects and risks of alcohol; and if he will make a statement. [164482]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Government are committed to reducing substance misuse-related harm among young people, including that associated with alcohol misuse. Alcohol education is delivered alongside that on drugs and volatile substances and is a vital element of our approach. The Department's guidance, "Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES 2004)" is clear that pupils' education about alcohol and its effects should start in primary school, before drinking patterns become established and should be revisited as pupils' understanding and experience increases.

In June of this year, the Government published their next steps in the Alcohol Strategy for England under the title "Safe. Sensible. Social.". This highlights young people as one of three priority groups for Government action on alcohol. To support this, the Department has committed to:

Produce authoritative, accessible guidance about what is and what is not safe and sensible in the light of the latest available evidence from the UK and abroad, to help young people and their parents make informed decisions about alcohol; and

Raise awareness of young people's alcohol use and—through a social marketing campaign—to work to create a culture where it is socially acceptable for young people to choose not to drink and, if they do, to do so later and more safely.

## Higher Education: Children in Care

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what arrangements are in place to assist care leavers to progress into higher education. [166368]

**Kevin Brennan:** Improving outcomes for children in care, including the proportion of care leavers who progress into HE, is of highest priority for the Government. The White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change", published in June 2007, set out a range of measures to improve the education of children in care. Ensuring that all children in care make better progression at school will enable more care leavers to enter higher education.

The Children and Young Persons Bill, which provides the legislative framework for the changes set out in "Care Matters: Time for Change", was introduced into the House of Lords on 14 November. It will place a duty on all local authorities to pay a bursary of a minimum of £2,000 to all care leavers who enter higher education, on top of the existing support they already receive. This measure will further improve the financial support that care leavers receive for higher education.

Further work to increase the numbers of care leavers progressing into higher education takes place through the "Aimhigher" programme. It helps people from under-represented backgrounds, including care leavers, to be able and willing to consider higher education as a viable option. The programme brings together local partnerships of schools, colleges and universities to design and deliver a range of aspiration and attainment-raising activities.

## Higher Education: Romford

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of 18 to 22 year olds from Romford were studying at university *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available; [168421]

(2) what the rate of participation by 18-year-olds in higher education in Romford was in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; [168432]

(3) what percentage of 18 to 22 year olds from Romford were studying at university *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [168434]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation is currently the higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first-time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The earliest figure is 39.3 per cent. for 1999/2000 and the latest available figure is 42.8 per cent. for 2005/06.

Equivalent figures for the 18 to 22-year-old age group are 33.4 per cent. for 1999/2000 and 36.2 per cent. for 2005/06.

Equivalent figures for 18-year-olds are 19.3 per cent. for 1999/2000 and 21.3 per cent. for 2005/06. Figures for 2006/07 will become available in 2008. The HEIPR is not disaggregated below national level.

HEFCE's "Young participation in Higher Education" publication includes the proportion of young people who enter higher education at age 18 or 19 by parliamentary constituency, although this only covers the years up to 2000. Participation rates based on this work are given on the supporting POLAR website (www.hefce.ac.uk/polar). These indicate that, for the cohort reaching 18 in 1997, the proportion of young people from Romford who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 was 22 per cent. For the cohort reaching 18 in 2000, the proportion of young people from Romford who entered higher education at age 18 or 19 was also 22 per cent.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the percentage of young entrants to full-time first degree courses from state schools in Romford was over the past five years. [168427]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available at a local level.

The latest available information on higher education entrants from state schools is shown in the table. This shows the proportion of UK-domiciled young (aged under 21) entrants to full-time first degree courses at higher education institutions in England, who are from state schools. The figures cover the period 2001/02 to 2005/06 inclusive. Figures for 2006/07 will become available in 2008. This information is taken from the annual "Performance Indicators in Higher Education", which are published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

*Percentage of UK-domiciled young (under 21) entrants to full-time first degree courses at higher education institutions in England, who are from state schools*

| *Academic year* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 85.2 |
| 2002/03 | 86.4 |
| 2003/04 | 86.1 |
| 2004/05 | 85.9 |
| 2005/06 | 86.9 |

*Source:*
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA.

## Influenza

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will make a statement on contingencies prepared for the possible re-deployment of school staff in support of other public services as a consequence of any future influenza pandemic, as identified in Exercise Winter Willow; [164907]

(2) if he will provide an update on the policy for the closure of schools in the event of any future influenza pandemic, identified as a consequence of Exercise Winter Willow; and if he will make a statement. [164908]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Government's policy on possible school closures remains that set out in the Department's guidance to schools and local authorities published in July 2006. It is possible that we will advise schools and group early years and childcare settings to close when a pandemic reaches their area. The decision on whether to issue such advice cannot be taken before there is a pandemic, as the decision will be based on the evaluation by expert advisers of the level of threat to children and young people from the pandemic strain of virus.

Officials from my Department are in discussion with partners in local government about the possibility of school staff assisting other services if schools were to close during a pandemic. However, we would hope that schools, working with their local authorities, would support remote learning by students during a pandemic, which would involve some, if not all, of a school's teaching staff.

## Minibuses: Licensing

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact of new driving licence regulations for minibuses on extra-curricular activities in schools; and if he will make a statement. [164478]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* With the Department for Transport and its agencies we assessed in 2006 the impact of the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations 1999 and we issued the policy statement for schools in April 2006 which I refer to in my reply to the hon. Member on 22 November.

## Pupil Exclusions

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fixed period exclusions there were in each year since 1997. [166705]

**Kevin Brennan:** The available information is given in the table:

*Maintained primary, secondary, all special schools, city technology colleges and academies[1, 2]: number of fixed period exclusions 2003-04 to 2005-06: England*

| | 2003-04[3, 4] | 2004-05[4] | 2005-06[5] |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Primary schools* | | | |
| Number of fixed period exclusions | 41,300 | 43,720 | n/a |
| *Secondary schools* | | | |
| Number of fixed period exclusions | 288,040 | 329,680 | 343,840 |
| *Maintained Special schools* | | | |
| Number of fixed period exclusions | 15,170 | 16,170 | n/a |
| *City Technology Colleges* | | | |
| Number of fixed period exclusions | n/a | n/a | 550 |
| *Academies*[6] | | | |
| Number of fixed period exclusions | n/a | n/a | 3,990 |

n/a = Not available
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained special schools. Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[3] In 2003-04 information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time.
[4] Information on fixed period exclusions has been derived from the termly exclusions survey.
[5] For the 2005-06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools, CTCs and Academies was collected for the first time via the School Census (the Termly Exclusions Survey has been discontinued). For exclusions during 2006-07, information on fixed period exclusions will also be collected from primary and special schools.
[6] Data is based on returns for 36 Academies, 20 of which had recently opened.
*Note:*
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fixed period exclusions there were in England in 2006-07, broken down by age and sex of excluded pupil. [166706]

**Kevin Brennan:** Data are not yet available for 2006-07; these will be published in June 2008. The latest year for which data are available is 2005-06 and relates to secondary schools only. This information is given in the table:

*Maintained secondary schools[1]: number of fixed period exclusions by age and gender England, 2005-06[2]*

| | Fixed period exclusions | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Boys | Girls | Total |
| *Number of exclusions* | | | |
| Age[3] | | | |
| 4 and under | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | [4]— | 0 | [4]— |
| 9 | 530 | 80 | 610 |
| 10 | 860 | 90 | 950 |
| 11 | 31,830 | 6,690 | 38,530 |
| 12 | 49,370 | 16,850 | 66,230 |
| 13 | 61,000 | 27,730 | 88,720 |
| 14 | 64,220 | 28,390 | 92,610 |
| 15 | 40,030 | 14,640 | 54,670 |
| 16 | 760 | 200 | 950 |
| 17 | 300 | 80 | 380 |
| 18 | 20 | 10 | 30 |
| 19 and over | 10 | [4]— | 10 |
| Total[5] | 248,950 | 94,750 | 343,840 |
| *Percentage of school population*[6] | | | |
| Age[3]: | | | |
| 4 and under | 000 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8 | [4]— | 0.00 | [4]— |
| 9 | 4.36 | 0.69 | 2.57 |
| 10 | 6.16 | 0.64 | 3.46 |

*Maintained secondary schools[1]: number of fixed period exclusions by age and gender England, 2005-06[2]*

| | Fixed period exclusions | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Boys | Girls | Total |
| 11 | 11.15 | 2.43 | 6.87 |
| 12 | 16.98 | 5.97 | 11.56 |
| 13 | 20.26 | 9.51 | 14.97 |
| 14 | 21.35 | 9.67 | 15.58 |
| 15 | 13.67 | 5.11 | 9.44 |
| 16 | 0.84 | 0.19 | 0.50 |
| 17 | 0.43 | 0.09 | 0.25 |
| 18 | 033 | 0.21 | 0.27 |
| 19 and over | 1.98 | [4]— | 1.00 |
| Total[5] | 14.96 | 5.77 | 10.40 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] For the 2005-06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools was collected via the school census for the first time (the termly exclusions survey has been discontinued). For exclusions during 2006-07, information on fixed period exclusions will also be collected from primary and special schools. See Notes to Editors 2.
[3] Age as at 31 August 2005.
[4] Less than 5, or a rate based on less than 5.
[5] There were 140 exclusions for which gender and age were unclassified and three male exclusions for whom age was unclassified. These have been included in the total only.
[6] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils of each age in secondary schools as at[6] January 2006.
*Note:*
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census

### Video Games: Violence

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated to Dr. Tanya Byron's review. [164862]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Government believe it is important to help parents and their children get the best from new technologies while protecting children from inappropriate or potentially harmful material on the internet and in video games. We will ensure that Dr. Byron has the necessary resources to complete a thorough review. The review is due to report by the end of March 2008.

An indicative budget of £250,000 has been allocated to the review, not including salaries and expenses of the civil servants on the review's secretariat. This figure is subject to possible amendment in line with the terms of reference, such as to meet needs for stakeholder engagement or qualitative research. This has been agreed in accordance with the Cabinet Office guidelines and value for money assessments.

## TREASURY

### Alcoholic Drinks: Death

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths attributable to alcohol there were in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [167894]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 27 November 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributable to alcohol there were in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. (167894)

The attached tables provide the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency from 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

*Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency[2], 2002-06[3]*

| | Deaths (persons) |
|---|---|
| | West Chelmsford |
| 2002 | 5 |
| 2003 | 9 |
| 2004 | 9 |
| 2005 | 7 |
| 2006 | 5 |

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following table.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

*Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)*

| Cause of death | ICD-10 code(s) |
|---|---|
| Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol | F10 |
| Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol | G31.2 |
| Alcoholic polyneuropathy | G62.1 |
| Alcoholic cardiomyopathy | I42.6 |
| Alcoholic gastritis | K29.2 |
| Alcoholic liver disease | K70 |
| Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified | K73 |
| Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis) | K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5) |
| Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis | K86.0 |
| Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X45 |
| Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol | X65 |
| Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent | Y15 |

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people under the age of 18 years died as a consequence of excessive alcohol consumption in the last period for which figures are available. [167988]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many young people under the age of

18 years died as a consequence of excessive alcohol consumption in the last period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (167988)

The latest calendar year for which figures are available is for deaths registered in 2006. There was one death in young people aged under 18 in England and Wales in 2006 with an underlying cause of death which was alcohol-related.*

The National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths only includes those causes regarded as being most directly due to alcohol consumption and toxic effects of alcohol (ie poisoning). It does not include other diseases where alcohol has been shown to make some contribution to increased risk, such as cancers of the mouth, oesophagus and liver (although these would not generally apply to deaths of young people aged under 18) and does not include drug poisoning deaths where alcohol was also mentioned. Apart from deaths due to poisoning with alcohol (accidental, intentional or undetermined), the definition excludes any other external causes of deaths, such as road traffic deaths, and other accidents and violence.

* Selected using the National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths. The International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes for the definition are listed below:

F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol

G31.2—Denegration of nervous system due to alcohol

G62.1—Alcoholicpolyneuropathy

142.6—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy

K29.2—Alcoholic gastritis

K70—Alcoholic liver disease

K73—Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified

K74—Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excluding K74.3-K74.5—billiary cirrhosis)

K86.0—Alcohol induced pancreatitis

X45—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol

X65—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol

Y15—Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent.

## Capital Gains Tax: Agriculture

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the capital gains tax changes announced in the pre-Budget report on the farming sector. [168758]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government take a range of factors into consideration when formulating tax policy, and keep all aspects of policy under review.

## Council of Economic Advisers

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times the Council of Economic Advisers has met in full session *(a)* since June 2007; and *(b)* in each year since 1997. [167724]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 March 2007, *Official report*, column 281W and the answer I gave on 24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 200W.

## Elderly: Death

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people resident in the Peterborough city council area over the age of 65 died during the winter months in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [168121]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people resident in the Peterborough City Council area over the age of 65 died during the winter months in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (168121)

Figures for winter deaths are calculated using a definition of winter as a four-month period from December of one year to March of the next year. The table below provides the number of winter deaths of people resident in Peterborough unitary authority over the age of 65, for the years 1996/97 to 2004/05 (the latest available).

*Table 1: winter deaths of persons over the age of 65[1], Peterborough unitary authority[2], 1996-97 to 2004-05*

| Winter | deaths (persons) Peterborough |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 465 |
| 1997-98 | 404 |
| 1998-99 | 495 |
| 1999-2000 | 426 |
| 2000-01 | 399 |
| 2001-02 | 420 |
| 2002-03 | 449 |
| 2003-04 | 394 |
| 2004-05 | 432 |

[1] Winter deaths are defined as those occurring in December of one year, plus those occurring in January to March of the following year.
[2] Using boundaries as of 2007 for all years.

## Employment: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of people in the Peterborough City Council area are classified as *(a)* professionals and *(b)* skilled workers; and if he will make a statement. [168122]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked top reply.

*Letter Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about employment. I am replying in her absence. (168122)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The percentage of people resident in the Peterborough City local authority who are employed in professional and skilled trades occupations for the 12-month period ending March 2007 was, respectively, 10 and 9 per cent. of all those in employment.

Professional and skilled workers are classified using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2000 for Professional Occupations and Skilled Trades Occupations respectively.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

### Financial Services Authority: Public Participation

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the codes of practice developed by the *(a)* Cabinet Office on consultation and *(b)* Better Regulation Executive on the principles of good regulation apply to consultations conducted by the Financial Services Authority. [167825]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Cabinet Office code of practice on consultation applies to all UK public consultations by Government Departments. It is not a statutory code and cannot prevail over statutory or mandatory external requirements such as those contained in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The Act places consultation requirements on the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and sets out what should accompany the consultation document.

With regard to (b), the principles of good regulation are specified in the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. The FSA will need to have regard to the principles in the Act and the draft regulators' compliance code that flows from it.

### Gift Aid

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what information his Department holds on charities that receive income tax refunds under the gift aid scheme; and if he will make a statement; [167629]

(2) how much was refunded to higher rate income tax payers under the gift aid scheme in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [167630]

(3) in how many cases income tax claimed by charities under the gift aid scheme has been deemed ineligible in each of the last five years, broken down by reason for ineligibility; and if he will make a statement; [167631]

(4) how much income tax claimed under the gift aid scheme by charities was deemed ineligible in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [167632]

(5) how much income tax was passed on to charities under the gift aid scheme in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [167633]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information held by HMRC on charities that receive income tax refunds under the gift aid scheme is:

charity name;

registered charity number;

HMRC reference number;

name and address of authorised charity official making income tax repayment claim (or their nominee);

company or trust status;

accounting date; and

charity's nominated bank name, account number and sort code.

Details of income tax paid to charities under the gift aid scheme, and the cost of income tax relief given to higher rate donors is available to the public on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/menu.htm

Figures for 2006-07 show total repayments to charities under gift aid of £830 million and £220 million of gift aid relief claimed by higher rate taxpayers.

The number of ineligible gift aid claims made by charities and the total income tax included on those claims is available only at disproportionate cost.

### Insurance

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of independent brokers within the United Kingdom commercial insurance market; what the annual value of the market is; and what his policy is for the future of this sector. [167826]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Financial Services Authority is responsible for the regulation of independent brokers within the United Kingdom. The FSA currently authorises 8,225 general insurance intermediaries. Research carried out by the British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) in 2006 indicated that 3,857 out of the total of regulated insurance intermediaries conducted general insurance broking as a core activity. The 2006 BIBA research indicated that total general insurance income from the primary UK market was £8.2 billion, of which £7.8 billion is generated by insurance brokers.

### Insurance Companies: Disclosure of Information

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what requirements there are for commercial insurance brokers to disclose commission to clients; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of those requirements. [167824]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Financial Services Authority set the requirements for commercial insurance brokers to disclose information to clients and is responsible for assessing the adequacy of those requirements. Insurance Conduct of Business Rule (ICOB) rule - ICOB 4.6.1R sets out the requirement for insurance brokers to disclose commission, when asked, to clients. The FSA review of commission disclosure in the commercial market is nearing completion and the findings will be announced shortly.

### Insurance: Equal Opportunities

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what policy objectives he has for diversity and competition within the commercial insurance sector; and what his policy is for regulation of the sector. [167827]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Government strongly encourage competition in all sectors of the economy and have strengthened the UK's competition legislation through the Competition Act 1998 and Enterprise Act 2002. Enforcement of the competition legislation is the responsibility of the Office of Fair Trading, the Competition Commission and the economic regulators.

Regulation of the commercial insurance sector falls within the responsibilities of the Financial Services Authority.

## Insurance: Public Participation

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to publish its consultation document on the hard disclosure of commission earned by brokers of commercial insurance; and what assessment he has made of the FSA's procedures for consulting before finalising that document, with particular reference to consultation with small independent brokers. [167828]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Financial Services Authority expects to publish the independent report on its findings on the hard disclosure of commission earned by brokers of commercial insurance shortly.

The Chancellor has made no specific assessment of FSA procedures for consulting before finalising this particular document. However, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 requires the FSA to consult on proposed rules and to produce a cost benefit analysis. The Act also requires the FSA to publish an account of representations made to it and its response to them.

## Low Incomes: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Peterborough constituency were paid less than the minimum wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [168140]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to asking how many people in the Peterborough constituency earned less than the minimum wage in the latest period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (168140)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid below the national minimum wage by parliamentary constituency are not available. However, I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage by Government Office Region.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

*Estimates of UK jobs paid below minimum wage by Government Office Region*

| | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Thousand* | *Percentage* |
| *Government Office Region* | | |
| North East | 16 | 1.5 |
| North West (including Merseyside) | 32 | 1.2 |
| Yorks and Humber | 24 | 1.2 |
| East Midlands | 25 | 1.4 |
| West Midlands | 26 | 1.2 |
| Eastern | 27 | 1.2 |
| London | 23 | 0.7 |
| South East | 32 | 0.9 |
| South West | 25 | 1.1 |
| Wales | 17 | 1.5 |
| Scotland | 30 | 1.3 |
| Northern Ireland | 15 | 2.1 |
| All[1] | 292 | 1.2 |

[1] 2007 data are for those aged 16 and over.

*Source:*

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

## Members: Correspondence

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his Department's practice to attach to written answers hard copies of earlier replies cited in such answers where these were previously given to hon. Members other than the hon. Member to whom the answer is addressed. [167767]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer he received on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 133W from my hon. Friend the Deputy Leader of the House. Treasury Ministers' written answers which cite earlier replies invariably give the *Hansard* column reference.

## Minimum Wage: Manpower

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials are employed to enforce minimum wage requirements in the Yorkshire and the Humber region; and what the planned number of such staff is for 2008-09. [168566]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Yorkshire and Humber region is covered by the NMW compliance teams based in Shipley and Sheffield. The staffing information for these teams can be found in the following table:

| | *Payband* |
|---|---|
| | *Total* |
| *Shipley* | |
| 2007-08 | 7 |
| 2008-09 | 8 |
| *Sheffield* | |
| 2007-08 | 7 |
| 2008-09 | 7 |

## Mortgages: Repossession Orders

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely number of mortgage repossessions in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [167626]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Treasury does not produce a forecast for mortgage repossessions. The Council of Mortgage Lenders publishes a range of statistics on UK housing and mortgage markets, including on repossessions, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

## National Savings

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value is of unclaimed assets in national savings accounts. [164124]

**Kitty Ussher:** National Savings and Investments (NS&I) estimates that there is approximately £466 million of unclaimed assets held with them in dormant accounts. NS&I offers a free tracing service to anyone who thinks that they may have unclaimed money in an NS&I product (www.nsandi.com/help/tracing_service.jsp). To date, it has achieved 48,000 successful traces and reunited customers with £47.8 million.

## Northern Rock

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he has had with the Governor of the Bank of England on Northern Rock in the last 12 months. [166509]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Chancellor regularly meets with the Governor to discuss a range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish his Department's statement of the principles governing its approach to any bid to acquire Northern Rock; and if he will make a statement. [166617]

**Kitty Ussher:** The statement of principles, which governs our approach to proposals for the future of Northern Rock and its business was published on 19 November 2007. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

## Ovarian Cancer: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of *(a)* ovarian and *(b)* breast cancer were diagnosed and cured in Peterborough constituency in each year since 1997. [167560]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked top reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of (a) ovarian and b) breast cancer were diagnosed and cured in Peterborough constituency in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (167560)

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of a) ovarian cancer and b) breast cancer registered in the Peterborough parliamentary constituency between 1997 and 2004, the latest year for which figures are available, are given in Table 1 below.

It is not possible to say whether or not patients are cured. For most cancers, but not breast, five-year survival rates are often taken to be 'cure' rates.

Survival rates by parliamentary constituency are not available, but one- and five-year survival for eight common cancers including breast cancer by government office region and strategic health authority, for patients diagnosed in 1997-99 and followed up to 31 December 2004, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991&Pos=9&ColRank=l&Rank=272

Survival rates for ovarian cancer are available for England only, in -One- and five-year survival of patients diagnosed 1999-2003 and followed up to 2004: 21 common cancers, by sex and age', on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product/Product.asp?vlnk=14007

*Table 1. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of ovarian and breast cancer[1] registered in Peterborough parliamentary constituency[2]: females, 1997 to 2004*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ovary | 7 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 12 | 6 | 13 | 9 |
| Breast | 45 | 41 | 57 | 60 | 51 | 59 | 71 | 59 |

[1] Ovarian cancer is defined by codes C56 and C57 and breast cancer by codes C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on parliamentary constituency boundaries as of 2007.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

## Prostate Cancer: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in Peterborough primary care trust and its predecessor's area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [168333]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking how many men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in Peterborough primary care trust and its predecessor's area in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (168333)

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer registered in the Peterborough

primary care trust between 1997 and 2004, the latest year for which figures are available, are given in Table 1.

*Table 1. Number of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1] registered in Peterborough parliamentary constituency[2]: males, 1997 to 2004*

| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prostate | 46 | 60 | 73 | 81 | 81 | 95 | 77 | 78 |

[1] Prostate cancer is defined by code C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] Based on parliamentary constituency boundaries as of 2007.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

## Register of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 709W, on register of births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships, what the underlying assumptions were for the original business plan which proved to be incorrect; who was responsible for drawing them up; who is responsible for drawing up the revised assumptions; and if he will make a statement. [168389]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking what the underlying assumptions were for the original business plan which proved to be incorrect; who was responsible for drawing them up; who is responsible for drawing up the revised assumptions. I am replying in her absence. (168389)

The assumptions in the business case were the responsibility of the officials who prepared the case, as they will be for the revised case. Those found to be incorrect related to costs and timescales for implementation, as is not unusual when discussions are undertaken with prospective suppliers after business case approval has been obtained.

## Revenue and Customs: Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what bonuses were paid to staff working on tax credits in each *(a)* month, *(b)* quarter and *(c)* year between April 2003 to September 2007; [167659]

(2) what the 10 largest bonus payments made to staff working on tax credits were in the last 12 months. [167660]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information is not available for all staff working on tax credits. For information up to May 2007 I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 395W. As he explained, staff in various parts of HM Revenue and Customs, not only the Tax Credit Office, may be deployed to tax credits work or deal with tax credits in addition to other work. It is not possible to isolate those in receipt of bonus payments.

For the number and value of bonus payments made to Tax Credit Office staff since new tax credits were introduced in 2003, I refer the hon. Member to the answers my right hon. Friend gave the hon. Member for Yeovil on 23 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1646W, 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1393W, 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 587W, and 12 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1792-93W.

The Director of the Tax Credit Office continues to recognise exceptional performance—including examples of excellent customer service—through a recognition bonus scheme. The number and value of bonus payments made to Tax Credits Office staff from June 2007 to September 2007 inclusive are shown as follows:

| *2007* | *Total number of staff awarded a bonus payment* | *Total value paid[1] (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| June | 2 | 500 |
| July | 6 | 1,150 |
| August | 19 | 5,400 |
| September | 82 | 12,000 |

[1] Per calendar month.

The 10 largest recognition bonus scheme payments made to TCO staff in the last 12 months were:

| *2007* | *Amount paid (£)* |
|---|---|
| March | 1,000 |
| March | 800 |
| March | 750 |
| August | 750 |
| March | 600 |
| September | 600 |
| February | 500 |
| May | 500 |
| September | 500 |
| November | 500 |

## Tax Yields

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of total tax revenue was raised by *(a)* income tax, *(b)* national insurance, *(c)* VAT and *(d)* council tax in each year since 1997. [166347]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of total tax revenue was raised by (a) income tax, (b) national insurance, (c) VAT and (d) council tax in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (166347)

Detailed statistics about types of tax payable by UK residents to general government and the European Union for calendar years are published on a regular basis in table 11.1 of the annual ONS publication "United Kingdom National Accounts (The Blue Book)". The Blue Book was last published in June. However, the table was updated in the monthly "Public Sector Finances First Release", on both calendar year and financial year bases, published on 20 July. Differences between the figures in the Blue Book and Public Sector Finances are a result of differing revisions policies for the National Accounts and the Public Sector Finances; the latter are the more up to date. The table is not a regular feature of the First Release, although most of the figures themselves are updated every month. The data in the table below are consistent with the dataset for the "Public Sector Finances" published on 20 November 2007.

In answering this question total tax revenue has been defined consistently with the Total taxes and social contributions series in table 11.1. Value Added Tax includes receivables for central government and the European Union. The financial year has been used because the UK adopts this as its fiscal base.

| | *A* | *B* | *C* | *D* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 27.5 | 17.2 | 18.9 | 3.7 |
| 1997-98 | 27.2 | 17.2 | 18.4 | 3.6 |
| 1998-99 | 28.0 | 17.1 | 18.1 | 3.8 |
| 1999-2000 | 28.2 | 16.6 | 18.1 | 3.8 |
| 2000-01 | 29.2 | 17.0 | 17.8 | 3.9 |
| 2001-02 | 29.2 | 17.0 | 18.4 | 4.1 |
| 2002-03 | 29.2 | 16.8 | 18.9 | 4.4 |

| | A | B | C | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 27.8 | 18.6 | 19.6 | 4.7 |
| 2004-05 | 28.1 | 18.7 | 19.0 | 4.7 |
| 2005-06 | 28.3 | 18.5 | 18.1 | 4.6 |
| 2006-07 | 28.5 | 18.3 | 18.2 | 4.5 |

*Notes:*
A. Household income taxes as a percentage of total taxes and social contributions payable by UK residents.
B. National insurance contributions as a percentage of total taxes and social contributions payable by UK residents.
C. Value added tax as a percentage of total taxes and social contributions payable by UK residents.
D. Council tax as a percentage of total taxes and social contributions payable by UK residents.

### Taxation: Rugby

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria are used to determine whether proceeds from rugby league testimonial events are regarded as taxable income; and how many people have been contacted about their potential tax liability arising from such events. [167919]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The tax treatment of testimonial payments depends upon the facts of each individual case. Under established case law, a testimonial payment will be fully taxable as earnings from employment where it is a contractual right or is customary at the player's club.

Confidentiality rules mean that I cannot comment on the number of players that have been contacted about the taxability payments received.

### Unemployment: Young People

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of 18 to 24 year olds are unemployed in West Chelmsford constituency; and what the equivalent figures were on 27 November in each of the last five years. [167892]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what percentage of 18 to 24 year olds are unemployed in West Chelmsford constituency; and what the equivalent figures were on 27th November in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (167892)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for parliamentary constituencies from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. These are annual surveys and the estimates derived from them cover twelve month periods, rather than a particular day.

However, from the annual LFS and the APS, there is only one period in the last 5 years where the sample size is sufficient to provide an estimate of the number of unemployed 18 to 24 year olds in West Chelmsford. For April 2004 to March 2005, there were 1000 unemployed persons aged 18 to 24 resident in West Chelmsford. This was 7 per cent of all 18 to 24 year olds in West Chelmsford. This percentage is not the same as the unemployment rate, which is defined as the number unemployed as the percentage of the number of economically active persons in the age group of interest. The unemployment rate for 18 to 24 year olds in West Chelmsford in this period was 10 per cent.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). The table, attached, shows the number of JSA claimants aged 18 to 24, resident in West Chelmsford, claiming in November for 2002 to 2006 (data for November 2007 are not yet available).

These numbers are not the numbers of claimants on the 27th of each November; the JSA claimant count date is the second Thursday of each month. These numbers cannot be shown as the percentage of all persons aged 18 to 24, as the working age population estimates for parliamentary constituencies cannot be broken down into different age groups.

*Number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance aged 18 to 24 resident in the West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency in November of each year from 2002 to 2006*

| November | Number |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 160 |
| 2003 | 185 |
| 2004 | 155 |
| 2005 | 230 |
| 2006 | 270 |

*Notes:*
1. Claimant count data by age includes computerised claims only.
2. Dataset rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus administrative data.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of children living in households entitled to but not claiming *(a)* child tax credit, *(b)* working tax credit and *(c)* child benefit in the most recent period for which figures are available; [167523]

(2) what the take-up rates for *(a)* child tax credit, *(b)* working tax credit and *(c)* child benefit were in 2006-07. [167524]

**Jane Kennedy:** Child and working tax credits were introduced in April 2003.

Estimates of take-up rates for child and working tax credit in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are not available. Estimates for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are produced in the HMRC publications "Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. Take-up Rates" for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

Table 7 of these publications also detail the estimated number of in-work entitled non-recipients, by family size.

A precise take-up rate for child benefit is not available, but it is estimated that approximately 2 per cent. of families, although entitled, do not claim child benefit. The number of children living in households eligible for but not claiming child benefit is not available.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Violent Extremism

12. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the preventing violent extremism programme. [168033]

**Hazel Blears:** The preventing violent extremism programme has been established to deliver the Government's commitment to support a community-based response to violent extremism. This includes work to support alternative voices, strengthen the resilience of faith institutions, support vulnerable individuals, build the capacity across communities to resist and reject violent extremism, and to promote shared values.

### Energy Efficiency

14. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes. [168035]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government have a wide ranging programme of activities to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes. As part of this, my Department has a major programme of work in hand to roll out Energy Performance Certificates which provide an energy performance rating for houses being sold.

My Department is also taking forward the Decent Homes Programme which is designed to tackle the worst housing conditions in the social housing sector and which includes measures to improve energy efficiency.

### Property Revaluations

15. **Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to revalue properties for council tax purposes. [168036]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government will stand by their commitment not to revalue during this Parliament. With the forthcoming three-year settlement for local government concluding in 2010-11 they would not expect to consider revaluation before that date. Even then there would need to be clear benefits given the costs to households that could be involved.

### Cabinet System: Local Government

16. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Government plan to publish a review of the cabinet system in local government. [168037]

**Mr. Dhanda:** On 5 October we published the results of our evaluation of councils' executive arrangements, including the cabinet system. This evaluation, undertaken by a team of academics, clearly demonstrates that the cabinet system enhances local leadership. And the new measures in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 will further strengthen the cabinet system.

### Affordable Housing

17. **Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision will be made in the Housing and Regeneration Bill to enable more affordable homes to be built. [168038]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Housing and Regeneration Bill will set up the new Homes and Communities Agency, which for the first time will bring together land and money to deliver new housing. The new agency will have responsibility for land and a budget of billions for affordable housing, including shared ownership.

The Bill will also make it easier for councils to build council homes by making changes to the Housing Revenue Account system.

21. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress she is making on increasing affordable housing in the south-east. [168042]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government have increased significantly the funding for housing in England from £7.8 billion over the last three years to over £10 billion for the three years 2008-11. We expect this funding, and other sources, to generate 110,000 social housing units over the next three years in comparison with 78,000 units over the last three years. The South East's proposed provisional share of this is £1.37 billion. We expect this additional investment to fund over 12,700 affordable homes per year in the period 2008-11. This compares with an average of 8,200 affordable homes per year over the previous three years.

### Home Information Packs

18. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on progress on the home information packs scheme. [168039]

**Yvette Cooper:** On 22 November, I set out our intention to complete the phased roll out by extending coverage to the rest of the market from 14 December, in line with the criteria set out on 11 June.

### Thames Gateway

19. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the number of dwellings planned in the Thames Gateway development on the effectiveness of that development. [168040]

**Yvette Cooper:** The target of 160,000 new homes in the Thames Gateway was set in 2006 with reference to the three regional spatial strategies (RSS) that cover the Thames Gateway area. The regional and local planning authorities are best placed to make assessments on the impacts of development on their areas and these assessments are made as part of the development of their regional and local strategies.

### Non-domestic Buildings: Sustainability Standards

20. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what standards of sustainability she sets for new non-domestic buildings constructed with support from public funding. [168041]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** All new non-domestic buildings, including those constructed with support from public funding are required to meet the standards sets out in Building Regulations, including Part L—Conservation of Fuel and Power.

My Department is also working with other Government Departments to consider the future standards that might be set for energy performance of new non-domestic buildings, including those owned or occupied by the public sector.

Additionally, the UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan which was published on 5 March 2007, sets out detailed plans for how the Government will move towards a sustainably built and managed central Government estate. This includes using sustainable procurement to make rapid progress against the cross Government sustainable operations targets announced in June 2006.

### Community Land Trusts

22. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance the Government are providing for the development of community land trusts. [168043]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are an additional option to help deliver affordable housing, if more land can be brought forward and if we can ensure that they provide housing in line with current standards for the delivery of social housing.

The Housing Corporation and Salford University are working together to support 14 pilot CLTs, seven in rural areas and seven in urban areas.

CLTs were also invited to bid for Housing Corporation funds through the National Affordable Housing Programme this year.

### Zero-carbon Housing

23. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress her Department has made in discussions with manufacturers of building materials on the development of materials for the construction of zero-carbon housing. [168044]

**Yvette Cooper:** Through the 2016 Taskforce, we are having constructive discussions with the Construction Products Association, which represents the UK's manufacturers and suppliers of construction products components and fittings, about a range of issues associated with the delivery of zero carbon homes, including the Government's Standard Assessment Procedure for the Energy Rating of Dwellings.

### Comprehensive Spending Review

24. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from local authorities on the effects of demographic trends on grant allocations made under the comprehensive spending review. [168045]

**Hazel Blears:** We have received a number of representations from local authorities on various issues relating to population and grant distribution. Issues include the time lag in funding for fast growing populations; adequately reflecting changes in international immigration; taking into account population mobility; and taking into account short-term migration, illegal immigrants and temporary residents.

### Asylum: Higher Education

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on whether local authorities may pay fees for asylum seekers to attend university on the basis that such persons are UK residents or foreign students; and if she will make a statement. [166176]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

The fees for international students including those who are seeking asylum are not regulated. Higher education institutions are therefore able to determine the fee that they charge. Asylum seekers are not eligible for tuition fee loans from the Government.

### Charity Commission: Accountability

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Statement by the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-672, on national security, when she expects the new unit in the Charity Commission to strengthen governance and accountability announced by the Prime Minister to be set up; what she expects its costs to be; and how she plans to measure the effectiveness of this unit. [168360]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Charity Commission launched its new Faith and Social Cohesion Unit on 9 November 2007.

The budget for the new unit is £1.4 million over the course of 2007-08 and 2008-09. This will be jointly funded by DCLG and the Commission.

The Commission is currently working with a range of partners to finalise its success measures, which will include the number of new registrations of Muslim charities.

### Community Relations: Religion

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, when she expects to announce the independent review to examine with communities how to build the capacity of Islamic seminaries referred to by the Prime Minister; who she expects to carry out the review; when she expects it to report; what she expects its costs to be; and if she will make a statement. [168402]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Details of the review are currently being developed, working closely with Muslim stakeholders, academics, theologians and others. We will announce further details in due course.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, when she expects the Green Paper on interfaith groups announced by the Prime Minister to be published. [168408]

**Mr. Dhanda:** We intend to open consultation on an interfaith strategy in December.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Statement by the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, when she expects the advisory group on citizenship education classes run by mosque schools announced by the Prime Minister to be set up; who she expects its members to be; what she expects its costs to be; and if she will make a statement. [168444]

**Mr. Dhanda:** In partnership with the Department for Children Schools and Families we are in discussion with a range of Muslim and educational stakeholders about establishing an advisory group and what its role will be. We expect the costs of the advisory group itself to be minimal. We will make further announcements once the advisory group is up and running.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of inquiries received by her Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167380]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Information on the departmental handling of correspondence from Members of Parliament and Peers is published annually by the Cabinet Office. The 2006 annual report was published by way of a written ministerial statement on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS. Information for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the calendar year.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which manufacturers' software is used in her Department. [167232]

**Mr. Dhanda:** According to central records Communities and Local Government uses software products from over 350 different manufacturers. However not all of these are end-user applications. For example, some products are used to manage systems, networks and security. The software suppliers with the largest Communities and Local Government footprint in terms of software products used on the corporate network and in our major web facing business applications are:

Adobe Systems, Inc.
Ahead Software AG
Artemis International Solutions Corporation
Business Objects
Business Web Software
Cognos, Inc.
Hewlett-Packard
IBM
Macromedia, Inc.
Mediasurface
Microsoft Corporation
Novell, Inc.
Open Text Corporation
Oracle Corporation
SAPAG
ScanSoft, Inc.
Sun Microsystems, Inc.

This list of manufacturers does not include software used in the Department's executive agencies, NDPBs or the Government offices.

### Emergency Calls: Fire Services

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average time taken to respond to an emergency telephone call by the fire brigade was in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166939]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following table shows the average response times taken by the fire and rescue services in London and England between 1997 to 2005, the most recent calendar year for which data are available. The table shows the time from the initial call to attendance, and the time from mobilisation to attendance (i.e. the actual driving time). Information for individual London boroughs is not available centrally.

*Average response time (in minutes) to fires by brigade area and year of call, London, 1997 to 2005*[1,2,3]

| Year | England | | London | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | First call to attendance | Mobilisation to attendance | First call to attendance | Mobilisation to attendance |
| 1997 | 6.0 | 5.1 | 4.7 | 3.6 |
| 1998 | 5.9 | 5.1 | 4.7 | 3.6 |
| 1999 | 6.2 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 3.9 |
| 2000 | 6.3 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 4.0 |
| 2001 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 5.0 | 4.1 |
| 2002 | 6.4 | 5.6 | 5.1 | 4.1 |
| 2003 | 6.6 | 5.8 | 5.1 | 4.1 |
| 2004 | 6.8 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 4.1 |
| 2005 | 7.1 | 6.1 | 5.5 | 4.1 |

[1] Excluding late call and heat and smoke damage only incidents.
[2] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
[3] A small number of incidents with response time greater than an hour have been excluded so that results are not skewed by likely reporting errors.

### Equality and Human Rights Commission: Public Appointments

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what human rights expertise candidates for appointment as commissioners of the Equality and Human Rights Commission are required to demonstrate as part of the appointments process. [165818]

**Barbara Follett:** I have been asked to reply.

Individuals with relevant knowledge or experience to enable the EHRC to deliver successful outcomes for equality and human rights were invited to apply for the post of commissioner.

Candidates were asked to demonstrate in their application and interview:

"a commitment to the equalities, human rights and good relations (social cohesion) agendas, and an understanding of the communities that the EHRC will champion and the issues they face".

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors she took into account in appointing Joel Edwards as a commissioner of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [165828]

**Barbara Follett:** I have been asked to reply.

Commissioners are appointed on the basis of relevant experience or knowledge of discrimination and human rights and the desirability of the commissioners together having experience and knowledge relating to the relevant matters.

Joel Edwards was appointed as EHRC Commissioner following a comprehensive selection process consistent with the requirements of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. This involved detailed paper assessment and interview by an expert panel. A shortlist of candidates was put to the Lord Privy Seal for her final agreement.

### Equality and Human Rights Commission: Standards

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place for periodic review of the work of the Equality and Human Rights Commission; and if she will make a statement. [165822]

**Barbara Follett:** I have been asked to reply.

Although the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an independent body, it is required like all non departmental public bodies to operate under the terms of a Management Statement and Financial Framework document, in this case agreed with the Lord Privy Seal. In addition, the EHRC is required by statute to:

prepare a statement of accounts in respect of each financial year in such form as the Lord Privy Seal may direct;

for each financial year prepare a report on the performance of its functions in that year; and

prepare and regularly review its strategic plan, and send the plan and each revision to the Lord Privy Seal who must lay a copy before Parliament.

The Commission will be held to account annually to Parliament on the use of public funds.

There is close liaison between the Government Equalities Office and the EHRC which enables Government to monitor, inform and review the EHRCs progress against the responsibilities set out in the Equality Act 2006.

### Fire Services: Hoaxes and False Alarms

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to reduce the numbers of false alarms for the fire service since 1997. [166957]

**Mr. Dhanda:** My Department published guidance on reducing the number of false alarms from fire-detection and fire-alarms systems in 2004. Since then, the Government have introduced the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This sets out the duties of the responsible person for fire safety in non-domestic premises, part of which includes maintenance of fire precautions. The Government expect fire and rescue services to adopt policies that allow them to respond to real fires without being distracted by false alarms.

### Floods

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the costs to local authorities arising from repair and restoration of infrastructure damaged by flooding in 2007. [167255]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

The Association of British Insurers Statement of Principles aims to ensure continued widespread availability of flood cover for households in flood risk areas. It does not extend to the cost implications of additional landfill tax or uninsured losses.

### Government Office for London

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the future of the Government office for London. [167568]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government office for London represents central Government in London and will continue to do so. It delivers a range of central Government functions on behalf of Ministers from 11 Whitehall Departments. These functions include negotiating local area agreements with London boroughs, undertaking Secretary of State planning casework, and co-ordinating civil emergency and resilience preparations across the capital.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to increase the availability of affordable housing in the West Midlands since 1997. [166479]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In 2003 my right hon. Friend the Member for Hull, East (Mr. Prescott), as Deputy Prime Minister, published "Sustainable Communities: building for the future", a document setting out a programme of action to tackle key housing problems including lack of affordable housing.

The programme of actions included the establishment of Regional Housing Boards in each of the regions to develop a Regional Housing Strategy on which to base advice to Ministers about strategic housing priorities and allocation of housing capital funding from the new Regional Housing Pot.

The West Midlands Regional Housing Board (RHB), in its first West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy published 2005, identified the need for affordable housing as a key regional priority, particularly in the south and west of the region.

On that basis the RHB made recommendations to Ministers about allocations of funding for the Affordable Housing Programme (formerly Approved Development Programme—ADP), administered by the Housing Corporation, resulting in an allocation to the West Midlands of £377 million pounds over the period 2004-05 to 2007-08, to subsidise delivery of 8,500 new affordable homes.

Prior to the formation of the RHB, the ADP was allocated on an annual basis through the Housing Corporation and in 2003-04 the allocation was £84.11 million. Therefore, over the five year period 2003-04 to 2007-08 allocations to the West Midlands for the provision of new affordable housing total £460 million.

In October 2007 the Government announced their overall funding for housing capital allocations for 2008-11. The West Midlands was allocated £209 million for 2008-09 (18 per cent. higher than 2007-08); £228 million for 2009-10 (11 per cent. in-year rise), and £245 million for 2010-11 (7 per cent. in-year rise).

This additional funding comes with a higher target for delivery of affordable housing, with the West Midlands expected to achieve 10,800 new affordable homes over the period 2008-11.

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 329W, on housing: low incomes, how many *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association socially rented houses will be built in each region in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [167904]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* We are on course to deliver 30,000 social rented homes in 2007-08. Of these we are expecting 28,000 to be provided through Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme. The remainder will be through other sources including local authorities who we estimate will provide around 300 social rented homes.

The following table shows forecast social rented completions by region through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme for 2007-08

| *Region* | *Forecast* |
|---|---|
| North East | 518 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 907 |
| North West | 1,932 |
| East of England | 3,794 |
| East Midlands | 1,517 |
| West Midlands | 1,448 |
| London | 8,004 |
| South East | 4,727 |
| South West | 2,781 |
| Total | 25,682 |

*Note:*
The balance to 28,000 will be made up by completions through recycled capital grant fund which cannot be forecast by region.

In 2007-08 we are providing over £2.0 billion to the Housing Corporation for the provision of affordable housing. We have made available funding totalling some £2.5 billion in 2008-09 and £2.8 billion in 2009-10 to support delivery of new affordable homes. Decisions have yet to be finalised as to the distribution of this funding and the resulting homes between the regions. The funding is being made available to bids from both housing associations, developers and local authorities through the Housing Corporation's bidding round for the National Affordable Housing Programme.

### Housing: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government have spent on housing in the West Midlands since 1997. [166480]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In the period 1997-98 to 2007-08 the Government have allocated a total of £1.599 billion capital funding to West Midlands local housing authorities.

This total funding includes:

£1.092 billion for non-specific housing investment for the 34 local housing authorities in the region;

£114 million to support local authorities' investment in Disabled Facilities Grants for people with disabilities that necessitate adaptations to their homes;

£195 million to the two Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders in Sandwell and North Staffordshire for investment to address housing low demand and regeneration; and

£198 million to the three arms length management organisations in Solihull, Sandwell and Wolverhampton to ensure that the all the council homes in those areas are brought up to the Decent Homes standard.

In addition to the funding allocated directly to local housing authorities, there is separate Government funding (the Affordable Housing Pot, formerly Approved Development Programme), administered by the Housing Corporation in each region, to deliver new affordable housing.

Since 2003-04, allocations to the West Midlands from the Affordable Housing Pot have totalled £461 million.

### Local Authorities: Children

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will assess the effects on local authorities of the legislative framework for meeting the needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; [165539]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the pressures on local authorities arising from meeting the needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and care leavers. [165540]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

Local authority services for unaccompanied asylum seeking children are governed by the same legislative framework as services for all other children in the community.

The Department collects statistical information on an annual basis concerned with all children looked after by local authorities; including children who enter care because they are unaccompanied asylum seekers (UASC) with no adult in this country able to take responsibility for their care. The DCSF manages the UASC Leaving Care Costs Grant, which is intended to provide assistance for local authorities towards meeting the leaving care costs of supporting unaccompanied asylum seeker children.

### Planning Permission: Quarrying

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with Rochdale metropolitan borough council on the planning application to re-open Ding quarry and the associated environmental impact assessment. [168932]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State would not discuss the application for new operating conditions for Ding quarry in view of her quasi-judicial role in relation to any appeal which might be submitted in the future. The Department has offered informal and general advice to Rochdale metropolitan borough council about the procedure and timescale for applying environmental impact assessment to reviews of mineral permissions for dormant quarries and also about the mineral permission review legislation as it applies to dormant quarries.

### Planning: Quarrying

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she has given to the compatibility of existing planning permissions for dormant quarries and planning and environment law. [168931]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Planning permissions for active and dormant quarries are compatible with current planning and environment law. However, mineral permissions do differ from other planning permissions in that many were granted just after the Second World War and they can involve continuous development over many years, and sometimes decades. As with other planning permissions, mineral consents and permissions are property rights which cannot, in general, be taken away with without compensation. The Planning and Compensation Act 1991 and the Environment Act 1995 introduced legislation to initially review old mineral permissions granted before 22 February 1982 and then periodically review, at 15 year intervals, all mineral permissions to ensure that operations are in accordance with conditions which reflect the most up to date environmental standards. In 2000, regulations were introduced applying environmental impact assessment to reviews of mineral permissions where the remaining development is likely to have significant effects on the environment.

### Quarrying

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had with quarry owners on re-opening dormant quarries. [168934]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Neither Ministers in my Department nor my officials have had recent discussions with quarry owners on re-opening dormant quarries.

### Quarrying: Finance

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the economic effects of re-opening dormant quarries. [168933]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Department has made no assessment of the economic effects of re-opening dormant quarries.

### Social Rented Housing: Construction

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association socially rented houses were built in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area in each year from 1997 to 2006. [167902]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The following table shows the number of local authority and registered social landlord new build social rent houses for each year from 1996-97 to 2005-06, by region.

| | *1996-97* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Registered social landlord social rent new builds (including section 106 100 per cent. develop funded)* | | | | | | | | | | |
| North East | 846 | 1,059 | 817 | 702 | 470 | 713 | 289 | 519 | 565 | 660 |
| North West | 3,884 | 2,656 | 2,971 | 2,163 | 2,022 | 2,102 | 2,031 | 1,123 | 1,219 | 1,175 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2,000 | 2,008 | 1,392 | 1,388 | 1,276 | 1,229 | 1,065 | 1,145 | 1,046 | 1,229 |
| East Midlands | 1,585 | 1,462 | 1,507 | 1,210 | 1,132 | 1,111 | 1,103 | 1,009 | 1,111 | 1,388 |

| | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Midlands | 2,828 | 2,078 | 2,184 | 2,459 | 2,031 | 1,586 | 2,075 | 1,597 | 1,919 | 2,185 |
| East | 3,625 | 2,477 | 2,842 | 1,929 | 2,061 | 2,182 | 2,165 | 2,384 | 2,583 | 2,808 |
| London | 5,761 | 3,997 | 3,852 | 3,603 | 3,938 | 4,201 | 3,363 | 4,170 | 4,166 | 4,762 |
| South East | 5,643 | 4,864 | 4,627 | 3,667 | 3,043 | 3,283 | 3,269 | 3,707 | 3,718 | 3,831 |
| South West | 2,974 | 3,091 | 2,237 | 2,395 | 2,080 | 2,167 | 1,951 | 2,478 | 1,976 | 2,605 |
| England | 29,146 | 23,692 | 22,429 | 19,516 | 18,053 | 18,574 | 17,311 | 18,132 | 18,303 | 20,643 |
| *Local authority social rent new builds* | | | | | | | | | | |
| North East | 38 | 9 | 7 | 4 | — | — | — | 18 | — | 88 |
| North West | — | — | — | — | — | — | 8 | 9 | — | 3 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 16 | 16 | 1 | 3 | — | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| East Midlands | 164 | 103 | 77 | 7 | 8 | — | 21 | 24 | — | 103 |
| West Midlands | 13 | 18 | — | 11 | 52 | — | 6 | 110 | — | 20 |
| East | 69 | 36 | 6 | — | — | 22 | 63 | 3 | 2 | 40 |
| London | 23 | 52 | 35 | — | 79 | 27 | 71 | 12 | — | 4 |
| South East | 30 | 30 | 15 | 12 | 19 | — | 21 | — | 92 | 36 |
| South West | 98 | 59 | 37 | 21 | 21 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 6 | 5 |
| England | 451 | 323 | 178 | 58 | 179 | 63 | 199 | 191 | 100 | 299 |

*Source*:
Housing Corporation and returns from local authorities

Social rent new build is only part of total affordable housing supply. In 2005-06, for example, acquisitions added a further 2,407 social rent dwellings, and total affordable supply including intermediate rent and low cost home ownership was 44,923.

A table showing information of total social rent (registered social landlord plus local authority) new build by local authority has been placed in the Library of the House.

## HEALTH

### 18 Weeks Programme: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual budget of the Central Secretariat for his Department's 18 weeks programme is. [165699]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Departmental servants provide the secretariat to the 18 weeks programme as part of their wider responsibilities. The cost of the secretariat function is not recorded separately.

### 18 Weeks Programme: Internet

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual cost of running the website for his Department's 18 weeks programme is. [165700]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In the period November 2006 to October 2007 the annual cost of running the 18 weeks website was £108,508. This includes staff costs, website development and maintenance.

Nearly 9,000 people are registered with the website and receive regular updates on 18 weeks programme developments and support. Over 1,100 people visit the website every day.

### Abortion: Medical Ethics

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce legislation to amend section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967 to remove the duty on a physician with a conscientious objection to treatment under the Act from having to prove it; and if he will make a statement. [167388]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Section 4 of the Abortion Act provides that, except where treatment is necessary to save the life of, or prevent grave permanent injury to, the pregnant woman,

> "no person shall be under any duty, whether by contract or by any statutory or other legal requirement, to participate in any treatment authorised by this Act to which he has a conscientious objection".

A doctor is only required to prove that they have a conscientious objection should the matter arise in legal proceedings.

It is accepted parliamentary practice that proposals for changes in the law on abortion come from Back-Bench Members and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes. The Government have no plans to change the law on abortion.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision the alcohol harm reduction strategy contains for the treatment of under-18 year olds; and what associated initiatives are located in Wirral West constituency. [166366]

**Kevin Brennan:** I have been asked to reply.

'Safe. Sensible. Social'. The updated alcohol harm reduction strategy for England identifies under-18s as a priority group for Government action on alcohol and

sets out the reduction of drinking by young people as a Government objective. Actions specifically aimed at addressing young people's alcohol misuse include producing guidance for young people and their parents about what is and what is not safe; a social marketing campaign to challenge attitudes around drinking; and tackling underage sales.

£25 million has been allocated in this financial year for treatment for under-18s from the adult pooled treatment budget for substance misuse. Alcohol is the biggest presenting problem for those under-18s who access treatment. The adult pooled treatment budget can also be accessed if local strategic partnerships identify greater need and adult targets have been met.

On the basis of information supplied by the Wirral dug and alcohol action team, (DAAT), there are a number of initiatives in Wirral West that aim to reduce the harms associated with substance misuse, including alcohol young people, through the Young People's Substance Misuse Service. They are:

School drug advisers: support all schools in Wirral in developing policies for drug education and managing drug-related incidents;

School nurses/looked after nurses: provide screening and basic information to young people;

Connexions: provides a universal support service designed for and with young people;

Churches Action on Substance Misuse (third sector);

Forum Housing (third sector): provides support to young people living in supported accommodation;

Sports and recreation (regeneration): offers diversionary activity to young people at risk of or involved in substance misuse;

Response: works with organisations, which provide services to young people at risk of or involved in alcohol misuse;

Youth offending services;

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS): responds to the needs of young people with complex substance misuse problems.

### Blood: Donors

**Mr. Kemp:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much blood was donated via the national blood donor scheme in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [167254]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Blood Service (NBS) is responsible for managing the blood supply in England and North Wales. In the last five financial years, the NBS collected the following amounts:

| | *Units of blood collected*[1] *(million)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 2.323 |
| 2003-04 | 2.285 |
| 2004-05 | 2.143 |
| 2005-06 | 2.012 |
| 2006-07 | 1.969 |

[1] These figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.

### Bone Diseases: Medical Treatments

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that patients with ankylosing spondylitis do not face delays in receiving the two anti-TNF treatments recently approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) if the final appraisal decision is delayed by an appeal in support of the one anti-TNF treatment that NICE rejected. [168179]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Funding for licensed treatments should not be withheld because guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is unavailable. In December 2006, we issued refreshed good practice guidance which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from NICE is not available at the time the treatment or technology first becomes available.

### Cancer: Drugs

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in trials of the cancer drug sorafenib; and when a decision on the licensing of sorafenib will be made. [166852]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The European Commission adopted a decision on the licensing of sorafenib on 19 July 2006 for treatment in advanced renal cell carcinoma. This marketing authorisation is valid across the Community. On 29 October 2007, the Commission issued a decision extending the indication for sorafenib to include treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma.

### Care Homes: Standards

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to review the implementation of the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare; and if he will make a statement. [165821]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The National Framework for National Health Service Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care will be reviewed on 30 September 2008.

### Chlamydia Infection: Screening

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources will be made available to local chlamydia screening teams to implement the National Chlamydia Screening Programme's men's strategy. [168143]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In February 2005, individual primary care trusts (PCTs) were notified of their funding for implementing the targets in the White Paper 'Choosing Health: making healthy choices easier'. For chlamydia screening, £70 million was allocated in PCTs mainstream allocations for 2006-07 and 2007-08. It is for strategic health authorities and PCTs to determine how this funding is allocated to meet the health care needs of their local populations. A copy of the White Paper is available in the Library.

The men's strategy, launched in conjunction with the Men's Health Forum in November, identifies how the Health Protection Agency, who manage the programme, will work with PCTs and local chlamydia screening programmes to increase screening in men.

### Clinical Trials: Advisory Services

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on improving access for the general public to information relating to *(a)* drug trials and *(b)* timetables of drug trials. [166851]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has no role in the timetabling of drug trials or in the provision of information on drug trials to the general public. NICE'S role is to provide national guidance on promoting good health and preventing and treating ill health, including advice on the clinical and cost effectiveness of medicines and other treatments.

Clinical trials are registered on the publicly accessible International Standard Randomised Controlled Trial Number Register which is available at:

www.controlled-trials.com/isrctn/

and the UK Clinical Research Network Portfolio Database which is available at:

www.pfsearch.ukcrn.org.uk/.

### Connecting for Health Programme: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he expects Connecting for Health to cost in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11, broken down into *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital costs. [165708]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency is responsible both for ensuring delivery of the IT systems for the national programme for information technology, and for maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority. Information covering all the agency's responsibilities is in the table.

Figures for 2008-09 to 2010-11 are those used to inform the comprehensive spending review, announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 9 October. However, these will be subject to revision as the agency responds over time to the evolving IT needs of the NHS.

*£ million*

| | *Revenue* | *Capital* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 (forecast outturn) | 500.0 | 826.0 |
| 2008-09 | 853.2 | 826.0 |
| 2009-10 | 786.9 | 1049.7 |
| 2010-11 | 785.9 | 835.8 |

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide a breakdown of his Department's capital underspend in 2006-07; and how much of that underspend was due to changes in the timetable for the delivery of the Connecting for Health programme. [165706]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department's Resource Accounts 2006-07 includes a breakdown of the capital underspend in 2006-07. These accounts were laid before Parliament on 15 October 2007 and a copy is available in the Library. Changes to the timetable for the delivery of the Connecting for Health programme has resulted in capital slippage of £466 million in 2006-07.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department's proposals for *(a)* the outsourcing of NHS logistics and *(b)* the advanced contract for pandemic influenza vaccine were (i) referred to and (ii) approved by HM Treasury. [165711]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department's proposal for the outsourcing of national health service logistics was referred to HM Treasury on 3 August 2006 and approval was granted on 4 September 2006. The Department's proposals for advanced supply contracts for pandemic influenza vaccine were referred to HM Treasury on 9 May 2007 and HM Treasury approval was granted on 1 June.

### Depressive Illnesses

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for depression in each primary care trust in each of the last 10 years. [167642]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information is not collected centrally about diagnoses for any condition in primary care, so reliable data is not available about the number of people who have been treated for depression in each primary care trust for any year.

We estimate that around seven million adults in England have a common mental health problem, which will include depression, and that approximately 90 per cent. of those people are managed entirely within primary care.

However, we know that there is a significant level of unmet need for people suffering with depression. This is why the Government announced on 10 October its commitment to building a new psychological therapy service, with additional investment rising to £170 million over the next three years. By 2011, this service will help to treat 900,000 more people with depression, anxiety and other conditions.

### Drugs: Internet

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce regulations to restrict the *(a)* supply and *(b)* prescription of drugs over the internet. [166606]

**Dawn Primarolo:** In the United Kingdom there are strict legal controls on the retail sale, supply and

advertisement of medicinal products. It is unlawful for medicinal products for human use to be marketed, manufactured, imported from a third country, distributed and sold or supplied in the UK except in accordance with the appropriate licences or exemptions. These legal controls apply equally to medicines for human use sold or supplied via internet or e-mail transactions.

Medicines legislation does not prohibit the remote prescribing of prescription medicines by a practitioner. These prescriptions must meet the usual requirements set down in medicines legislation.

Medicines that are brought into the UK by an individual for his or her own personal use or that of a member of his/her family, including those purchased via the internet and by mail order, are not regarded as being imported for sale or supply, because they are not going to be placed on the market by that individual and accordingly are not subject to the controls of medicines legislation. There are no plans at this time to change the legislation.

Websites based overseas fall outside the control of UK medicines legislation. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency works closely with international regulatory authorities to ensure that, wherever possible, offending websites are amended to reflect the law.

### East Midlands Regional Strategic Health Authority

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public consultation meetings will be held by East Midlands Regional Strategic Health Authority in December 2007; what the purpose of those meetings is; and who has been invited to them. [168703]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We understand that East Midlands Strategic Health Authority has no plans to hold any meetings as part of formal public consultations in the east midlands during December.

### General Practitioners: Easington

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practising NHS general practitioners there are in Easington constituency; and what the ratio of GPs to head of population is in the constituency. [166032]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not available at constituency level. The following table shows the number of general medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population in the County Durham Primary Care Trust area as at 30 September 2006.

| | *GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars)*[1] | *Number (headcount) and percentage GMPs (excluding retainers and registrars)*[1] *per100,000 population* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 33,091 | 65.3 |
| County Durham PCT | 345 | 69.0 |

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP providers and GP others

*Sources:*

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Resident Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics

### General Practitioners: Greater London

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there are per head of population in *(a)* Havering and *(b)* London. [167316]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is held at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) level.

The latest figures available for general practitioners (GPs) per head of population at Havering PCT and London SHA can be found in the following table.

| *Health organisation* | *GPs per population as at September 2006* |
|---|---|
| Havering PCT | 54.8 |
| London SHA | 64.8 |

### Health Centres

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the planned health centres to be open for seven days a week will be additional to the existing network. [165716]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Yes. The £250 million access fund announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 10 October is for additional primary medical care services beyond existing provision.

### Health Services: Speech Impaired

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to general practitioners on referring children with a speech, language or communication disability to an appropriate service; and if he will make a statement. [167614]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* No such guidance has been issued.

The ability to communicate is fundamental to a child's learning and development. 'Aiming High for Disabled Children: better support for families' (published by HM Treasury and Department for Education and Skills, May 2007) recognised the importance of therapy services, such speech and language therapy, as being key to improving outcomes.

On 11 September my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Health and the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families announced a review of services for children and young people with speech,

language and communications needs. The review will be lead by the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow).

The review will build on the investment and improvements to speech and language therapy and the resources made available in the last 10 years. The review will advise on a number of areas including examples of good practice in commissioning and delivering services which are responsive to the needs of children, young people and families and which can be viewed as benchmarks for the delivery of local services across England.

The review will make an interim report in March 2008 and a full report by July 2008.

### Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is responsible for the implementation of the national vaccination programme for human papilloma virus. [167525]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) will be responsible for local planning and delivery of the vaccination programme. National guidance will be issued by the Department in order to assist PCTs in their work.

**Mrs. Humble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms will be used to *(a)* audit the take-up of the human papilloma virus vaccine through the national vaccination programme and *(b)* ensure comprehensive coverage of women over 16 years of age in the programme. [167526]

**Dawn Primarolo:** National immunisation statistics for primary care trusts (PCTs) in England will be collected by the Department.

PCTs will be responsible for commissioning immunisation services to vaccinate girls under the age of 18 as part of a catch-up programme. Mechanisms to achieve this will be decided by individual trusts.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has advised that human papilloma virus vaccination would be most efficiently delivered through schools.

### Influenza

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 923W, on influenza, what plans he has to stockpile antibiotics for use in the event of an influenza pandemic; [166321]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of courses of antivirals which would be required in order to offer chemoprophylaxis protection to NHS staff against future occurrence of the disease in the event of an influenza pandemic. [166456]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The range of antibiotics needed to treat bacterial complications arising from pandemic influenza has been identified and published in the form of Clinical Management Guidelines.

The Government have secured a stockpile of H5N1 vaccine for use by health care workers and is also progressing work to ensure that the appropriate face masks are made available to them. The current stockpile of antivirals is intended for the treatment of symptomatic cases, not prophylaxis. There are currently no plans to offer them to NHS staff for prophylaxis in the event of an influenza pandemic.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 923W, on influenza, if he will estimate the proportion of excess deaths in each year since 1997-98 which occurred in those vaccinated against seasonal influenza. [166325]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not held centrally.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the current thresholds are for *(a)* baseline and *(b)* epidemic seasonal influenza activity, expressed in terms of the general practitioner consultation rate per 100,000 population; what the evidential basis underpinning these thresholds was; what representations his Department has received from (i) the Health Protection Agency and (ii) other interested parties on these thresholds; what discussions officials in his Department have had with the Health Protection Agency on the subject of thresholds for influenza activity; what the content of such discussions was; and if he will make a statement. [166384]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The current thresholds for baseline and epidemic seasonal flu activity is as follows:

GP consultation rates of 0 to 30 per 100,000 population per week—baseline activity rates of 30 to 200 per 100,000 population per week—normal seasonal activity rates of >200 per 100,000 population per week—epidemic activity.

The threshold level was changed in 2004-05 following assessment of the indicators of influenza activity by the Health Protection Agency, and in discussion with the Birmingham Research Unit of the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation Respiratory Panel.

The Department has asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to review the use of antivirals and threshold levels used for seasonal influenza.

### Influenza: Vaccination

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received from *(a)* officials in the Health Protection Agency and *(b)* other interested parties on the effectiveness of vaccination against seasonal influenza; what the content of these representations was; and if he will make a statement. [166386]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The aim of the Government's influenza immunisation policy is to protect those who are most at risk of serious illness or death should they develop influenza. Although vaccination may not protect all elderly people from flu virus infection experts, including those from the Health Protection Agency (HPA), advise that the majority of those

immunised benefit by suffering a less severe illness. The HPA press release of 24 October endorsed the Government's influenza vaccine campaign.

United Kingdom policy is constantly under review by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation to take into consideration all available evidence. A new study from the HPA on the causes of winter hospital admissions adds to the evidence base.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which groups of workers are eligible for *(a)* antiviral chemoprophylaxis and *(b)* vaccination against A/H5N1 in the event of an outbreak of avian influenza. [166438]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Based upon detailed risk assessments during an outbreak, all workers, and others, who are identified as having been at risk of exposure to the H5N1 virus will be offered chemoprophylactic preventative treatment with the antiviral Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) within 24-48 hours of disease confirmation. Additionally, all workers who are identified as being at risk of potential exposure, for example through engagement in culling and disposal of birds, will be offered antiviral chemoprophylaxis prior to commencing these activities.

All those offered antiviral prophylaxis will also be offered seasonal influenza vaccine. Vaccination with H5N1 vaccine is not offered during outbreaks of avian flu. There is a small stock of H5N1 vaccine which is held for possible use in the event of a human flu pandemic.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to strengthen the criteria for prioritisation of vaccination in the event of an influenza pandemic, as recommended by his Department's Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations at its meeting of 20 June 2007. [166450]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department has commissioned a series of studies to predict the impact of vaccinating specific risk groups, including strategies that prevent the spread of disease as well as preventing flu cases and flu-related deaths. This work is being used to develop a detailed strategy for the prioritisation of pandemic flu vaccine.

## Liver Diseases

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to hospital in England as a consequence of *(a)* alcoholic liver disease and *(b)* cirrhosis in each of the last 10 years. [166823]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is in the following table:

*Data for NHS hospitals England for 1996-97 to 2005-06*

| | *Alcoholic liver disease* | *Cirrhosis of the liver* |
|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 39,725 | 24,042 |
| 2004-05 | 35,909 | 20,800 |
| 2003-04 | 32,070 | 18,355 |
| 2002-03 | 28,645 | 16,700 |
| 2001-02 | 25,757 | 15,182 |
| 2000-01 | 23,777 | 14,663 |
| 1999-00 | 22,482 | 14,502 |
| 1998-99 | 19,531 | 13,834 |
| 1997-98 | 18,205 | 12,749 |
| 1996-97 | 16,252 | 11,806 |

*Notes:*

*Ungrossed Data* Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed). *Assessing growth through time* Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the National Health Service there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time. *Data Quality* HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. *Finished admission episodes (FAE)* A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year. *All Diagnoses count of episodes* These figures represent a count of all FAEs where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record. *ICD10 code used for Alcoholic Liver Disease = K70* ICD10 code used for Cirrhosis of Liver: K70.3 Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver K71.7 Toxic liver disease with fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver K74.3 Primary biliary cirrhosis K74.4 Secondary biliary cirrhosis K74.5 Biliary cirrhosis, unspecified K74.6 Other and unspecified cirrhosis of liver.

Code K70.3 is also included within the data for Alcoholic Liver Disease. These figures should not be added together as this would cause double counting.

## NHS: EU Nationals

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his estimate is of the number of French nationals in the UK who have accessed NHS services in each of the last five years; [167034]

(2) what the cost to the public purse has been of French nationals living in the UK accessing NHS services in each of the last five years. [167035]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Entitlement to free national health service hospital treatment is based upon ordinary residence in the United Kingdom, not nationality or payment of taxes. Successive Governments have not required the NHS to submit statistics on the number of foreign nationals living in the UK who have accessed NHS services, nor any costs to the public purse involved. It is therefore not possible to provide this information.

## NHS: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 272W, on NHS: Finance, how many NHSnet users there are; and what personally identifiable information is contained in the programme budgeting atlases. [166322]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Programme Budget Atlases contain no direct personally identifiable information in the sense of names, identification numbers, postcodes etc. However, some of the statistics contained within the atlases are based on very small numbers of events and may, therefore, have the potential to identify an individual. There are now some 300,000 registered NHSnet users, over 132,000 of whom use the system on a daily basis.

### Primary Care Trusts: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much money will be transferred to primary care trusts from the Ministry of Justice in each financial year between 2008-09 and 2010-11 to fund the transfer of responsibility for healthcare escorts and bedwatches; [165702]

(2) whether the money to fund healthcare escorts and bedwatches from 2008-09 will be drawn from the budget of his Department. [165704]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The total budget for healthcare escorts and bedwatches activity in a 2005-06 audit indicated an annual spend of £16.9 million[1].

This amount, uplifted for pay, prices, population changes and where applicable, local allowances, will be transferred from the Ministry of Justice to this Department for each year covered by the current comprehensive spending review settlement.

Primary care trusts will shortly receive a communication confirming their allocations for the provision of healthcare escort and bedwatches services for each prison establishment in England for this period. Allocations for 2008-09 will be based on local historical spend as identified in the audit. Allocations for 2009-10 and beyond will then be re-distributed based on a fair shares model agreed with Her Majesty's Prison Service, which will take into account a number of factors including prison type, category and operational capacity.

Final adjustments are currently under way.

*Source:*

[1] A Twelve Month Study of Prison Healthcare Escorts and Bedwatches, Department of Health, 2006.

### Prostate Cancer

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the survival rate of those treated for prostate cancer in *(a)* Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust and *(b)* London NHS trusts is. [167293]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the survival rate of those treated for prostate cancer in a) Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust and b) London NHS trusts is. I am replying in her absence. (167293)

Survival rates by NHS Trust are not available, but one and five-year survival for eight common cancers including prostate cancer by government office region and strategic health authority, for patients diagnosed in 1997-99 and followed up to 31 December 2004, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991 &Pos=9&ColRank=1&Rank=272

### Queen's Hospital Romford: Alcoholic Drinks

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol related injuries were treated in accident and emergency at Queen's Hospital, Romford, since its establishment. [167439]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Queen's Hospital Romford: Epilepsy

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to appoint a specialist epilepsy nurse at Queen's hospital, Romford. [167315]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We are informed that Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals National Health Service Trust has funding for an epilepsy nurse and will be advertising this post shortly.

### Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what dates the Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza met in 2007; and if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of these meetings; [166389]

(2) if he will place a copy in the Library of the empirical evidence referred to in section 2.4 of his Department's Pandemic Influenza Scientific Advisory Group's Subgroup on Modelling summary, dated November 2007, which demonstrates that local epidemics of pandemic influenza will vary in profile between primary care trust areas; [166457]

(3) if he will consider the merits of a contingency strategy for an appropriate response in the event of an extreme pandemic as recommended in his Department's Pandemic Influenza Scientific Advisory Group's Subgroup on Modelling summary, dated November 2007. [166458]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza has not met in 2007.

The empirical evidence referred to, from the Department's Pandemic Influenza Scientific Advisory Group's Subgroup on Modelling, concern 1918-19 influenza pandemic mortality data from England and Wales. The actual documents used by the Department are tables produced by Niall Johnson as part of his PhD project in the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge (1996-2001). The raw data in the Department's possession has been placed in the Library.

The Pandemic Influenza Scientific Advisory Group's Subgroup on Modelling summary, dated November 2007 does not recommend a contingency strategy for an extreme pandemic.

The modelling summary defines an extreme pandemic as one where the case fatality rate (CFR) is above the historic range, i.e. above 2.5 per cent. and indicates that

a policy question is how the response might change for such a pandemic. It does not recommend Government devises a contingency strategy for the situation. It recommends: "Based on historical pandemics, a 'reasonable worst case' for a pandemic would be a CFR of 2.5 per cent." This is the upper end of the CFR range considered in the contingency planning as described in the cross-Government "national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic".

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Havering

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* 15 to 19-year-olds and *(b)* adults over the age of 19-years-old in the Havering Primary Care Trust area were (i) tested for and (ii) diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections in 2006. [167113]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on the number of people tested for sexually transmitted infections in genitourinary clinics (GUM) is not currently collected centrally.

Information on the number of diagnoses in young people 15 to 19-years-old and adults over the age of 19 diagnosed in GUM clinics is only currently available at strategic health authority (SHA) level.

Information for 2006 for the London SHA, which includes Havering Primary Care Trust (PCT) is given in the following table.

| | *Chlamydia* | *Gonorrhoea* | *Syphilis* | *Herpes* | *Warts* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 to 19 years | 4,373 | 1,083 | 27 | 612 | 1,488 |
| Over 19 yrs | 16,198 | 5,368 | 895 | 4,583 | 11,541 |

*Notes*:
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. Individual patients may have more than one diagnosis in a year.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
4. There is no reporting GUM clinic in the Havering PCT area.
5. Age groups are only available for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, primary and secondary syphilis, anogenital herpes and anogenital warts only.
6. STI testing data in GUM clinics is not collected by age group.

*Source*:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

In addition to diagnoses made in GUM clinics, the national chlamydia screening programme (NCSP) has been running since 2003 in England. Information according to postcode of residence for those who have had a test and are positively diagnosed within the Havering PCT for 2006 is given in the following table.

| | *Age group* | *Years* |
|---|---|---|
| | *15 to 19* | *20 to 24* |
| Tests | 168 | 259 |
| Diagnoses | 16 | 30 |

*Notes*:
1. The data from the NCSP are for diagnoses made outside of GUM clinics and include diagnoses made by the Boots pathfinder project in London.
2. The data available from the NCSP are the number of tests and diagnoses made and not the number of patients tested and diagnosed.
3. The NCSP screens those aged under 25 years.
4. Data as of 15 November 2007

*Source*:
National Chlamydia Screening Programme.

### Skin Cancer

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will collate figures for five-year survival rates for skin cancer on a regional basis. [166504]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 November 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will collate figures for five-year survival rates for skin cancer on a regional basis. I am replying in her absence. (165504)

As noted in a response to a similar question you asked previously (Official Report volume 467, No. 10, column 921W, 21 November 2007) sub-national analyses of survival from specific cancers are only routinely undertaken for eight cancers, and do not include skin cancer. Further there are no plans to produce equivalent figures for other cancer sites. However, figures are available for skin cancer diagnosed during 1971-90 in England and Wales, broken down by region, and were provided in the earlier reply.

The sub-national analyses of survival for the eight cancers were produced in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). LSHTM were funded by National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD)/Department of Health to produce analyses for these eight common cancers only. These figures were used by the National Heath Service as part of the Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators.

### Smoking: Young People

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 17 year olds who smoked in each year since 1978, broken down by sex. [166452]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, latest data on the percentage of adults aged 16 to 19 who smoke in Great Britain, broken down by gender are available from the 2005 General Household Survey and are shown in the following table.

Reducing the number of young people who smoke is a Government priority, which is why the minimum age of sale was raised to 18 from 1 October. Sanctions against retailers who repeatedly flout the law on age of sale will also be introduced.

*Prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex and age, Great Britain, 1974 to 2005*

*Unweighted (percentage smoking cigarettes)*

| *Persons aged 16 and over* | *1974* | *1978* | *1982* | *1986* | *1990* | *1994* | *1998* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Men* | | | | | | | |
| 16-19 | 42 | 35 | 31 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 30 |
| 20-24 | 52 | 45 | 41 | 41 | 38 | 40 | 42 |
| 25-34 | 56 | 48 | 40 | 37 | 36 | 34 | 37 |
| 35-49 | 55 | 48 | 40 | 37 | 34 | 31 | 32 |
| 50-59 | 53 | 48 | 42 | 35 | 28 | 27 | 27 |
| 60 and over | 44 | 38 | 33 | 29 | 24 | 18 | 16 |
| All aged 16 and over | 51 | 45 | 38 | 35 | 31 | 28 | 28 |
| *Women* | | | | | | | |
| 16-19 | 38 | 33 | 30 | 30 | 32 | 27 | 31 |
| 20-24 | 44 | 43 | 40 | 38 | 39 | 38 | 39 |
| 25-34 | 46 | 42 | 37 | 35 | 34 | 30 | 33 |
| 35-49 | 49 | 43 | 38 | 34 | 33 | 28 | 28 |
| 50-59 | 48 | 42 | 40 | 35 | 29 | 26 | 27 |
| 60 and over | 26 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 20 | 17 | 16 |
| All aged 16 and over | 41 | 37 | 33 | 31 | 29 | 26 | 26 |
| *Total* | | | | | | | |
| 16-19 | 40 | 34 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 27 | 31 |
| 20-24 | 48 | 44 | 40 | 39 | 38 | 39 | 40 |
| 25-34 | 51 | 45 | 38 | 36 | 35 | 32 | 35 |
| 35-49 | 52 | 45 | 39 | 36 | 34 | 30 | 30 |
| 50-59 | 51 | 45 | 41 | 35 | 29 | 27 | 27 |
| 60 and over | 34 | 30 | 27 | 25 | 21 | 17 | 16 |
| All aged 16 and over | 45 | 40 | 35 | 33 | 30 | 27 | 27 |

*Weighted (percentage smoking cigarettes)*

| *Persons aged 16 and over* | *1998* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *Weighted base 2005 (000) = 100%* | *Unweighted sample[1] 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Men* | | | | | | | | | |
| 16-19 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 22 | 27 | 23 | 23 | 1,122 | 508 |
| 20-24 | 41 | 35 | 40 | 37 | 38 | 36 | 34 | 1,362 | 586 |
| 25-34 | 38 | 39 | 38 | 36 | 38 | 35 | 34 | 3,225 | 1,558 |
| 35-49 | 33 | 31 | 31 | 29 | 32 | 31 | 29 | 5,296 | 2,724 |
| 50-59 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 3,295 | 1,732 |
| 60 and over | 16 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 5,196 | 2,930 |
| All aged 16 and over | 30 | 29 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 26 | 25 | 19,496 | 10,038 |
| *Women* | | | | | | | | | |
| 16-19 | 32 | 28 | 31 | 29 | 25 | 25 | 26 | 1,063 | 508 |
| 20-24 | 39 | 35 | 35 | 38 | 34 | 29 | 30 | 1,654 | 763 |
| 25-34 | 33 | 32 | 31 | 33 | 31 | 28 | 29 | 3,559 | 1,825 |
| 35-49 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 26 | 6,137 | 3,213 |
| 50-59 | 27 | 28 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 3,556 | 1,896 |
| 60 and over | 16 | 15 | 17 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 6,345 | 3,422 |

*Weighted (percentage smoking cigarettes)*

| *Persons aged 16 and over* | *1998* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *Weighted base 2005 (000) = 100%* | *Unweighted sample[1] 2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All aged 16 and over | 26 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 23 | 22,315 | 11,627 |
| *Total* | | | | | | | | | |
| 16-19 | 31 | 29 | 28 | 25 | 26 | 24 | 24 | 2,186 | 1,016 |
| 20-24 | 40 | 35 | 37 | 38 | 36 | 32 | 32 | 3,016 | 1,349 |
| 25-34 | 35 | 35 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 31 | 31 | 6,784 | 3,383 |
| 35-49 | 31 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 30 | 29 | 27 | 11,433 | 5,937 |
| 50-59 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 6,851 | 3,628 |
| 60 and over | 16 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 11,541 | 6,352 |
| All aged 16 and over | 28 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 41,811 | 21,665 |

*Notes:*
1. 2005 data include last quarter of 2004-05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.
2. Trend tables show unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. Bases for earlier years can be found in General Household Survey (GHS) reports for each year.

*Source:*
GHS, 2005. Office for National Statistics.

## Tuberculosis

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of tuberculosis were diagnosed in each region of England in each year since 1997; and of these cases, what proportion in each region were of drug-resistant tuberculosis. [167875]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The number of cases of tuberculosis (TB) by strategic health authority (SHA) are shown in the following table, with data from 1998-2006.

The Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance system (ETS) started in 1999. Prior to this, National TB Surveys were carried out every five years and this provided data for 1998.

*Number of tuberculosis case reports by Region, England, 1998-2006*

| | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 390 | 424 | 418 | 570 | 489 | 475 | 443 | 556 | 579 |
| East of England | 244 | 215 | 280 | 328 | 352 | 328 | 395 | 483 | 448 |
| London | 2,244 | 2,308 | 2,641 | 2,717 | 2,986 | 3,049 | 3,129 | 3,479 | 3,362 |
| North East | 168 | 164 | 158 | 185 | 155 | 147 | 149 | 134 | 144 |
| North West | 675 | 680 | 638 | 652 | 649 | 592 | 588 | 757 | 698 |
| South East | 398 | 415 | 454 | 470 | 456 | 588 | 619 | 647 | 699 |
| South West | 212 | 193 | 225 | 216 | 230 | 205 | 270 | 274 | 287 |
| West Midlands | 625 | 654 | 734 | 713 | 807 | 810 | 912 | 937 | 941 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 539 | 486 | 543 | 563 | 514 | 547 | 544 | 579 | 704 |

Not all cases of TB are tested for drug susceptibility. The following table shows the number of cases of TB that were tested for drug susceptibility, and the number and proportion of those cases that were resistant to one or more of the first-line drugs used to treat TB, by SHA, with data from 1998-2006.

The ETS started in 1999. Prior to this, National TB Surveys were carried out every five years and this provided data for 1998.

*Number and proportion of tuberculosis cases with drug resistance where drug susceptibility testing was done*

| | *1998* | | | *1999* | | | *2000* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Total[1]* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Total[1]* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Total[1]* | *Percentage* |
| East Midlands | 9 | 203 | 4.4 | 11 | 209 | 5.3 | 11 | 201 | 5.5 |
| East of England | 9 | 134 | 6.7 | <5 | 112 | — | 9 | 135 | 6.7 |

*Number and proportion of tuberculosis cases with drug resistance where drug susceptibility testing was done*

| | 1998 | | | 1999 | | | 2000 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Total*[1] | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Total*[1] | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Total*[1] | *Percentage* |
| London | 82 | 1,212 | 6.8 | 97 | 1,216 | 8.0 | 107 | 1,212 | 8.8 |
| North East | <5 | 81 | — | <5 | 95 | — | <5 | 81 | — |
| North West | 11 | 352 | 1.1 | 10 | 321 | 3.1 | 17 | 292 | 5.8 |
| South East | 18 | 234 | 7.7 | 21 | 262 | 8.0 | 16 | 238 | 6.7 |
| South West | 11 | 126 | 8.7 | 7 | 119 | 5.9 | 5 | 108 | 4.6 |
| West Midlands | 20 | 323 | 6.2 | 20 | 309 | 6.5 | 19 | 345 | 5.5 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 9 | 293 | 3.1 | 5 | 232 | 2.2 | 8 | 267 | 3.0 |

| | 2001 | | | 2002 | | | 2003 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Total*[1] | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Total*[1] | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Total*[1] | *Percentage* |
| East Midlands | 19 | 281 | 6.8 | 18 | 260 | 6.9 | 18 | 266 | 6.8 |
| East of England | 19 | 171 | 11.1 | 16 | 193 | 8.3 | 17 | 209 | 8.1 |
| London | 132 | 1333 | 9.9 | 165 | 1653 | 10.0 | 191 | 1737 | 11.0 |
| North East | <5 | 105 | — | <5 | 85 | — | <5 | 92 | — |
| North West | 14 | 367 | 3.8 | 20 | 381 | 5.2 | 12 | 298 | 4.0 |
| South East | 10 | 206 | 4.9 | 22 | 264 | 8.3 | 18 | 328 | 5.5 |
| South West | 9 | 111 | 8.1 | 6 | 124 | 4.8 | 7 | 123 | 5.7 |
| West Midlands | 21 | 395 | 5.3 | 36 | 432 | 8.3 | 20 | 435 | 4.6 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 7 | 279 | 2.5 | 5 | 277 | 1.8 | 18 | 282 | 6.4 |

| | 2004 | | | 2005 | | | 2006 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Total*[1] | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Total*[1] | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Total*[1] | *Percentage* |
| East Midlands | 19 | 257 | 7.4 | 15 | 291 | 5.2 | 22 | 297 | 7.4 |
| East of England | 17 | 243 | 7.0 | 29 | 289 | 10.0 | 19 | 267 | 7.1 |
| London | 185 | 1781 | 10.4 | 179 | 1953 | 9.2 | 203 | 1946 | 10.4 |
| North East | <5 | 90 | — | 5 | 92 | 5.4 | 5 | 100 | 5.0 |
| North West | 20 | 315 | 6.3 | 26 | 395 | 6.6 | 18 | 380 | 4.7 |
| South East | 21 | 354 | 5.9 | 20 | 387 | 5.2 | 27 | 426 | 6.3 |
| South West | 7 | 147 | 4.8 | 5 | 158 | 3.2 | 8 | 166 | 4.8 |
| West Midlands | 26 | 516 | 5.0 | 25 | 506 | 4.9 | 21 | 529 | 4.0 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 26 | 31.0 | 8.4 | 31 | 331 | 9.4 | 27 | 390 | 6.9 |

[1] Variations by region and country should be interpreted with caution in view of small numbers

*Note:*

Proportion is calculated among total number of cases with drug susceptibility testing results

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 28 November 2007*

## SCOTLAND

### Remploy

9. **Mr. Doran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department's procurement policy is in relation to Remploy factories in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [167465]

**David Cairns:** As one of the smallest Government Departments with a limited procurement budget, the Scotland Office does not currently procure goods or services from Remploy although we are currently reviewing our procurement policies. It is the case that this Government will contribute £555 million over the next five years as part of Remploy's restructuring programme. This will ensure the future of many Remploy factories, including that in my hon. Friend's constituency.

### Public Expenditure

10. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what public expenditure per person is planned for Scotland in each of the next five years. [167466]

**Des Browne:** Spending plans for the next three years were included in the recently released comprehensive spending review providing Scotland with total departmental expenditure limits of £27.2 billion in 2008-09, £28.4 billion in 2009-10 and £29.7 billion in 2010-11.

Scotland also benefits from direct spend from Whitehall Departments in reserved areas, which accounts for just under half of all public spending in Scotland.

### Devolution

11. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister of Scotland on further devolution of powers to Scotland. [167467]

**Des Browne:** I have had discussions with the First Minister on a range of issues and I look forward to further constructive discussions in the interests of the people of Scotland in the future.

### Constitution

12. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on constitutional arrangements affecting Scotland. [167468]

**Des Browne:** I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice whose Department is responsible for, among many other things, the overall management of the UK's constitutional arrangements and relationships including with the devolved Administrations.

### Commonwealth Games: Glasgow

13. **Mr. Davidson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what support the Government intend to provide for the holding of the Commonwealth games in Glasgow in 2014. [167470]

**Des Browne:** Scotland Office officials are currently working closely with the Scottish Executive, taking forward secondary legislation in the UK Parliament ensuring that requirements of the Commonwealth Games Federation are met.

**Mr. Marshall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if his Department will bring forward proposals for the Government to assist with the holding of the Commonwealth games in Glasgow in 2014; and if he will make a statement. [167464]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office will take forward secondary legislation in the UK Parliament to ensure that the requirements laid down by the Commonwealth Games Federation are met. Scotland Office officials are working closely with colleagues in the Scottish Executive.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth games. [167469]

**David Cairns:** I wrote to the Scottish Ministers on 21 September offering our full support for the bid and officials in the Scotland Office are working closely with the Scottish Executive on a number of issues to ensure the successful preparation for the games. This will include secondary legislation to protect intellectual property rights.

### Departmental Assets

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each sale is; and if he will make a statement. [164163]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office has little by way of disposable assets, and we have no plans to dispose of any between 2007-08 and 2010-11.

### Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland who the special advisers in his Department are; what expertise each has; and what the cost of employing them was in the latest year for which figures are available. [163419]

**David Cairns:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 147WS.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Anniversaries

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which historical anniversaries his Department intends to mark in each of the next four years. [167963]

**Margaret Hodge:** DCMS plans to mark Remembrance day each year by organising, in concert with other stakeholder bodies, a commemoration ceremony at the Cenotaph, London on the nearest Sunday to 11 November, the anniversary of the first world war Armistice. Further details will be issued shortly before each of those commemorations.

The Department has no plans to mark other historical anniversaries at this time.

### Churches: Finance

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport further to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), what funds he expects to be available for churches of heritage value over the CSR period. [167171]

**Margaret Hodge:** Allocations under the Comprehensive Spending Review to those bodies with responsibilities that include the heritage of places of worship have been notified to those bodies.

The Churches Conservation Trust, which cares for redundant Church of England churches of heritage value, will receive £3.1 million per year in 2008-9 to 2010-11, an increase of £100,000 per year.

We announced on 18 October that English Heritage's funding will be £124.7 million in 2008-09, £126.7 million in 2009-10, and £130.7 million in 2010-11, which will allow them to maintain grants at current levels and progress specified initiatives as outlined in the 'inspired!' campaign on historic places of worship.

The listed places of worship grant scheme, which makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in use for worship, will continue to operate until March 2011, unless a permanent reduced VAT rate for such repairs is agreed by the European Commission in the interim. Under this scheme, all eligible applications are met, and the funding made available will depend on the number of applications made.

### Commonwealth Games: Glasgow

**John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how the digital dividend will affect the availability of radio spectrum for the staging needs of the 2014 Commonwealth games in Glasgow; and if he will make a statement. [168392]

**James Purnell** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom), as independent regulator for the communications sector. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Creative Pioneer Academy

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many people attended the Creative Pioneer Academy in each of the last three years; [164473]

(2) how many awards have been given as part of the Creative Pioneer Academy; and for what purposes these awards have been used; [164475]

(3) what the total cost was of the Creative Pioneer Academy in each of the last three years. [164476]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Creative Pioneer Academy was a programme set up by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) and responsibility for NESTA transferred to my Department in June 2007.

I have been advised by the chief executive of NESTA that the academy, which has now closed, was attended by 30 pioneers in 2004, 25 in 2005 and 30 in 2006. A total of 48 awards of up to £35,000 were awarded to enable the participants to put the knowledge acquired into practice and to implement their business plan. The total cost of the academy was £824,000 in 2004-05, £912,000 in 2005-06 and £757,000 in 2006-07.

### Departmental Property

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164375]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** In each of the last five years the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has spent the following on the renovation and refurbishment of its properties.

2006-07—£6.7 million (aggregate figure for work finalised in this year subject to account negotiation). These costs were in pursuance of the recommendations of the "Lyons Report" and allowed the Department, after a refurbishment and modernisation project, to rationalise the size of its estate. This enabled the Department to move most staff from existing outlying properties into the single building which had been refurbished. The Department has closed two outlying properties plus additional floors in its two other remaining properties. The properties and areas that are now relinquished have either been returned to their landlords, or are pending disposal.

### Digital Broadcasting: Gaelic Language

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 329W, on Digital Broadcasting: Gaelic Language, what the outcome was of the BBC Trust's consideration of the proposals. [168726]

**James Purnell:** On 21 November the BBC Trust provisionally concluded that, while the Gaelic Digital Service could deliver public value, further evidence was needed to demonstrate the service's educational benefits and appeal to a wider audience. The Trust requested that further evidence should be provided by the BBC Executive before the public consultation on the service closes on 19 December. If that evidence proves satisfactory the Trust would approve the service, subject to certain specific requirements and conditions being met.

### Flags

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the grade is of the most senior official in his Department who has responsibility for policy on flag flying. [168884]

**Margaret Hodge:** The most senior DCMS official, responsible for all departmental matters, is its Permanent Secretary, Jonathan Stephens.

### National Security

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Statement by the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, when he expects the guidance to museums, libraries and archives councils on extremist material referred to by the Prime Minister to be issued. [168363]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) will develop this guidance, in partnership with the public library sector, and intends to publish by the end of the calendar year, 2007.

### S4C: Finance

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department gave to S4C in each of the last five years. [168736]

**James Purnell:** S4C has a statutory, calendar year grant entitlement under section 61 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as amended). Under this formula, DCMS grant to S4C in each of the last five years has been:

| | *Grant (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 83.634 |
| 2004 | 85.729 |
| 2005 | 88.690 |
| 2006 | 90.857 |
| 2007 | 94.395 |

### Spaces for Sports and Arts Programme: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department gave to the Spaces for Sports and Arts programme in each of the last five years. [165805]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* The information is shown in the following table.

| | *Space for Sports and Arts (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 0.5 |
| 2002-03 | 10.1 |
| 2003-04 | 40.9 |
| 2004-05 | 27.5 |
| Total | 79.0 |

The scheme commenced in October 2000 and it was expected that all but one of the projects would be completed and open by November 2005.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Food

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166648]

**Mr. Woodward:** My Department does not provide catering services at its departmental headquarters building therefore this information is not available.

In respect of the catering services provided at other NIO premises it is not possible to identify the percentage of produce which is imported as such data are not held.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164920]

**Mr. Woodward:** One civil servant supports the special adviser in my office. He provides administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the code of conduct for special advisers and also provides support to the private offices.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned. Office costs will be accounted for in the 2007-08 departmental annual report and accounts.

## Departmental Opinion Polls

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what opinion polls the Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164944]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office and its agencies have carried out three opinion polls since 27 June 2007. This information is shown in the following table.

*Opinion polls conducted since June 2007 of*

| *(a) The public* | *(b) Staff* | *Name of firm employed to conduct the poll* | *Purpose* | *Cost to the public purse (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern Ireland Crime Survey | — | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency | Primarily, to measure people's experience of crime and their perceptions of crime, policing and the criminal justice system. | 280,000 |
| Survey on purchasing counterfeit goods. | — | Genesis Advertising Ltd | Pre- and post-campaign evaluation survey to gauge opinion on attitude to purchasing counterfeit goods in advance of advertising campaign. | 7,370 |
| Public opinion poll | — | Millward Brown Ulster | Validating government policies. | 21,385 |

[1] Per annum

## Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167299]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office (including its agencies) does not have any full-time equivalent staff responsible for brand management and marketing. However, from time to time staff in various parts of the office are engaged in related activities, including maintaining and ensuring the application of corporate branding. These staff costs together with any associated non staff costs could be separately identified only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167344]

**Mr. Woodward:** The Northern Ireland Office (including its agencies) does not have any full-time equivalent staff responsible for managing corporate identities. However, from time to time staff in various parts of the office are engaged in related activities, including maintaining and ensuring the application of corporate branding. These staff costs together with any associated non staff costs could be separately identified only at disproportionate cost.

## Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in his Department have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [157927]

**Mr. Woodward:** No staff employed within the Northern Ireland Office have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package.

# HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

## Lighting: Waste Disposal

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what guidance has been issued on procedures for *(a)* cleaning up and *(b)* disposing of environmentally-friendly light bulbs which have been broken. [168313]

**Nick Harvey:** The instructions are that the cleaning operative, using protective gloves and wearing a mask, should collect the main fragments of the light bulb and carefully place these into a sturdy box. All splinters should then be collected using stiff card or paper. The area should then be cleaned using a damp cloth. The splinters and the cloth should also be placed into the box. Once the area is clear and clean, the box should be sealed and labelled with details of the item. The box should then be taken to the waste removal area in the loading bay and passed to the waste disposal contractor for disposal in an appropriate manner.

# PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

## Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission for what reasons the National Audit Office wanted information from HM Revenue and Customs on all child benefit recipients. [168911]

**Mr. Alan Williams:** This is not a matter for the Commission. The Comptroller and Auditor General has, by statute, complete discretion in the discharge of his functions, and the Commission therefore does not intervene in the day to day running of the National Audit Office. The hon. Member may wish to write to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

### National Audit Office: Data Protection

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission what plans the National Audit Office (NAO) has to review the practices involved in transporting data; whether the NAO *(a)* uses and *(b)* plans to continue to use TNT to transport data; and what plans it has to put the transportation of confidential data out to tender. [169387]

**Mr. Alan Williams:** This is not a matter for the Commission. The Comptroller and Auditor General has, by statute, complete discretion in the discharge of his functions, and the Commission therefore does not intervene in the day to day running of the National Audit Office. The hon. Member may wish to write to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

## TRANSPORT

### Bristol International Airport

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expansion plans her Department has for Bristol International Airport; and if she will make a statement. [169448]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government's 2003 White Paper "The Future of Air Transport" recognises provision of additional airport capacity as a key driver to generating regional growth and investment, whilst taking account of the environmental impacts of air travel. Within this context airport operators were invited to publish master plans setting out future development proposals.

Bristol International Airport published a master plan in late 2006 setting out detailed medium-term development plans, including expansion of the existing terminal building. Ultimately, it will be for the airport's operator to bring forward development proposals for consideration through the planning system in the normal way.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which manufacturers' software is used in her Department. [167221]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The following manufacturers' software is used in the Department for Transport and its agencies:

| | *Software used* |
|---|---|
| Dft (Central) | SAP AG, Microsoft, Novell, InstallShield, Adobe, Citrix, Ahead, Barren McCann, Becrypt, McAfee, Peoplesoft, Diagonal Solutions, Red Hat |
| Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) | Adobe, Ahead Nero, Attachmate, Avanquest UK, Avaya, BEA BeCrypt, Blenheim Software, Business Objects, Computer Associates Corel, Cyberlink, Danka, Dell, EMC, HP, IBM, Identex, Kodak McAfee, Microsoft, Neurascript, Novell, Nuance, Omega First Ltd. Oracle, Pro Atria, QAS, SAP, SAS, Scanoptics, Siebel SmartIdentity, Software AG, Sophos, Sybase, Synapse Adaptive, Logic Group, TIBCO Staffware, Treehouse Software |
| Driving Standards Agency (DSA) | Adobe, Amberpoint, Autocad, Automobile Association, BancTec, BEA, Brightstor, Business Objects, Business Services Management, Capita, CDC Respond, Clarify, Corel, Cyberlink, DataEase, Dell, Diskeeper, Dotted Eyes, Empire Interactive, Fabis, FileMaker, Globalgold, Globalscape, Hewlett Packard, Hummingbird Exceed, Java, Jolly Giant Software, Keypoint, Logitech, Macromedia, Mapinfo, McAfee, Microsoft, Mindjet, Nobo, Nuance, Oracle, QAS, Quark, Quest, SecureDial, Sherpa Software, Softsteel, Sun, Supergen, Symantec, TextHelp, Veritas, Websense |
| Highways Agency (HA) | Adobe, Citrix, Computer Associates, Hewlett Packard, Macromedia, Microsoft, Network Associates, Open Text, Oracle, Sun |
| Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA) | Novell, Microsoft, McAfee, Adobe, Oracle, Red Hat, Centos, SUSE, Sun, Business Objects, Cedar, Opentext, Mapinfo, Fortek, Sunguard Vivista, BMT, Kornsberg Norcontrol |
| Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) | Microsoft, Websense, Securewave, Civica, Cedar, Davies and Robson, GFI, Sage, Albany, Blackbay, EXPO, Northgate, Techsmith, Adobe, Amyuni |
| Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) | Apple, Microsoft, IBM, Oracle, BEA, CA, Citrix, Hewlett Packard, Corvu, Zephry, Adobe, Clearswift, Baron McCann, Becrypt, 12, Sun, Winzip Computing, Actuate, Checkpoint, EMC, Hart Hanks, SAS, Symantec, Euro Decision, Experian, Globalscape, Human Concepts, Hummingbird, Kofax, McAFee, Marshall, Serena, Sybase, Webtrends, Applix, Business Objects |
| Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) | Novell, Microsoft, Clearswift, Sunsystems, Gael Quality |

### Departmental Manpower

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many reports have been made to her Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162468]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to her Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162469]

(3) when her Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162470]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Cabinet Office on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 596-97W.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what surveys have been conducted by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* external consultants; and how much each survey cost in each of the last five years. [164640]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in her Department and its agencies. [165229]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of full-time equivalent staff currently responsible for brand management and marketing to external audiences in the Department and its agencies is set out as follows:

| | *Full-time equivalent staff* |
|---|---|
| DfT Central | 22 |
| DSA | 7 |
| DVLA | 15.5 |
| GCDA | 1 |
| HA | 8 |
| MCA | 1.5 |
| VGA | 2.4 |
| VOSA | 0.2 |

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167296]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The estimated annual cost of staff working on marketing and branding to external audiences in the Department and its agencies is set out as follows:

| | *Staff cost (£000)* |
|---|---|
| DfT Central | 1,080 |
| DSA | 233 |
| DVLA | 329 |
| GCDA | 52 |
| HA | 260 |
| MCA | 65 |
| VCA | 112 |
| VOSA | 6 |

It is not practicable to reliably distinguish staff effort on branding alone.

### Heathrow Airport: Public Participation

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* environmental data and *(b)* model inputs were used in the consultation on Heathrow airport; and if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's analysis of the consultation responses. [168357]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport", published on 22 November, is supported by a series of technical documents setting out in detail the underlying modelling, data and assumptions used. These documents are listed in Annex D to the main consultation document. All the documents are available on the Department for Transport's website: www.dft.gov.uk/heathrowconsultation. The consultation runs until 27 February 2008 and, in line with Government practice, a summary of consultation responses will be published. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Railway Stations: Security

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 667, on national security, what plans her Department has to improve security at *(a)* overground and *(b)* London Underground railway stations. [168220]

**Mr. Tom Harris** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: The Department for Transport already has in place a range of measures to protect our railway systems. Plans to improve on these measures are being worked through with the railway industry with the aim of ensuring a regime which is proportionate and effective while still allowing people to go about their day-to-day business.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's statement mentioned two specific projects which will build on the measures already in place to protect the rail and underground networks from terrorist attacks: passenger screening and physical protection against vehicle bomb attacks.

*Passenger Screening*

Last year, the Department for Transport undertook a number of trials at London Underground and National Rail stations, to test the effectiveness of passenger screening equipment and explosives sniffer dogs in an operational environment.

The Department is planning with the British Transport Police (BTP) and other stakeholders how we might increase and improve the screening of passengers and bags, in the light of the evidence from these trials and elsewhere. The aim of such passenger screening would be threefold: deterrence, detection and public reassurance.

We anticipate that this would involve the flexible deployment of dogs and/or portable screening equipment by BTP across the rail network, with a focus on the busiest stations, both overground and London Underground. The exact locations and timing of these deployments would be an operational decision for the British Transport Police.

*Physical protection of stations*

There are already security measures in place at major railway stations to control normal vehicle access, such as deliveries and staff parking.

Permanent physical vehicle restraints have been installed at the recently-refurbished St. Pancras International station, from which Eurostar now operates. There are agreements in place for similar measures at other key overground and London Underground stations that will be undergoing major redevelopments as part of 'designing in' security. For other significant stations, programmes of work are under active consideration.

**Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what progress her Department is making on developing a sustainability labelling scheme for renewable transport fuels; [168674]

(2) what assessment she has made of the potential effect of biofuel production on deforestation; [168675]

(3) what assessment she has made of the potential effect of biofuel production on biodiversity; [168676]

(4) what assessment she has made of the effect of biofuel production on orang-utan habitats; [168677]

(5) what assessment she has made of the effect of biofuel production on food prices. [168678]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Government have asked the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership to carry out a feasibility study into a possible sustainability labelling scheme for biofuels. The work is under way and we will publish our findings as soon as possible.

The rapidly increasing global demand for palm oil and other agricultural commodities for use in the food and other sectors has a number of environmental and social consequences. The biofuel sector currently accounts for a very small fraction of total global demand for these products. Current high cereals prices are due to global factors, including two successive lower world wheat harvests, low global stocks and increased demand for cereals from the food, feed and fuels sectors. Growing global demand for biofuels can be expected to increase crop prices but also the supply of crops in the future.

The Government take very seriously the potential risks associated with unsustainable biofuel production, including deforestation, reduction of biodiversity and any more particular threats to endangered species. We have developed a comprehensive carbon and sustainability reporting mechanism as an integral part of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) which is due to come into effect in April 2008. This is designed to encourage transport fuel suppliers to ensure the sustainability of their biofuels. We are also pressing the European Commission to introduce a robust mandatory sustainability framework for biofuels as a part of its forthcoming Renewable Energy Directive. We have said that we will not support any higher targets for future biofuel use until we are satisfied that effective sustainability standards are in place.

From April 2008, we will ask the Renewable Fuels Agency to report on a quarterly basis on the sustainability impacts of the RTFO. This will allow us to monitor very closely any adverse impacts of biofuel production. The Government will monitor how markets are affected by growing biofuel demand and will tailor policies accordingly.

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what scientific *(a)* reports and *(b)* evidence she considered prior to introducing her proposal for a Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation. [168141]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Before announcing in November 2005 that it would introduce a Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), the Government carried out extensive public consultation and a detailed feasibility study into the practicality, as well as the likely costs and benefits, of such a scheme. Copies of the study were placed in the House Libraries, and are available via the Department's website:

www.dft.gov.uk

As part of the feasibility study, the Government commissioned various reports from experts, including on whether and how greenhouse gas and broader environmental and social assurance schemes should be linked to an RTFO. The Government also took into account a wide range of scientific evidence on the costs and benefits of biofuels as part of the development of policy on the RTFO. This included Government-funded studies by Sheffield Hallam university and the Central Science Laboratory considering the lifecycle benefits and impacts of biofuels. Research published by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in association with the European Council for Automotive Research and Development (EUCAR) and the Oil Companies' European Organisation for Environment, Health and Safety (CONCAWE)) on biofuels and other potential future transport fuels was also taken into account.

The Government will continue to take into account new scientific evidence on the impacts of biofuels as it becomes available, and will continue to tailor their biofuel policies accordingly.

**Roads: Accidents**

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research she has commissioned on the accident rates of left-hand and right-hand drive vehicles using UK roads; and whether her Department collects information categorising accidents by driver position. [168008]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department collects information on whether vehicles involved in reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain are foreign registered and, if they are, whether they are left hand drive, right hand drive or two wheelers. This information has been collected since January 2005 and is published in table 53 of "Road Casualties Great Britain—2006 Annual Report". Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This table can also be found on the Department's website at the following address:

http://www.dft.tov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/285672/WebTables4153.xls

Information on the number of, or distance travelled by, foreign registered vehicles in Great Britain is not separately available and so a rate cannot be calculated.

### Tolls

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have worked in her Department on national road pricing in each of the last five years, broken down by grade. [164645]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 878W, (UIN 159129), which in turn referred to earlier answers provided on this subject.

## DEFENCE

### Aircraft Carriers: France

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much he expects the UK to receive from France's purchase of the Future Aircraft Carrier design; and what the schedule is for payment of this sum. [167368]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* Under the Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation signed with France the UK has received £70 million from France in respect of the shared Future Aircraft carrier design. A final payment of £45 million is conditional on France's decision to manufacture a carrier based on the Common Baseline Design.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of *(a)* married and *(b)* single accommodation are provided at each barracks in (i) the United Kingdom and (ii) Germany; and what percentage of that accommodation is (A) in use, (B) subject to repair and refurbishment and (C) empty. [168171]

**Derek Twigg:** The requested information is not held centrally and it will take time to determine what can be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. I will therefore write to my hon. Friend and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with colleagues to identify married quarter voids that can be released to alleviate homelessness. [168242]

**Derek Twigg:** In England and Wales most surplus Service Families Accommodation is returned to its owner, Annington Homes Ltd. Its alternative use is not therefore a matter for the Ministry of Defence (MOD). In Scotland, MOD officials maintain close contact with the Scottish Executive and other bodies on this issue. Some properties have been released to housing associations in the past.

### Armed Forces: Mortgages

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with the Council of Mortgage Lenders on the treatment of mortgage applications submitted by armed forces personnel who are then posted overseas. [166902]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We have no plans to hold discussions with the Council of Mortgage Lenders on the treatment of mortgage applications submitted by armed forces personnel who are then posted overseas. There has been no indication of problems in this area but if the hon. Member wishes to give further detail I would be glad to consider it further.

### Army: Absenteeism

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel from each regiment or unit were reported as absent without leave in each *(a)* month and *(b)* year since 1997. [166982]

**Derek Twigg:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Defence Export Services Organisation

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 475W, on Defence Export Services Organisation, whether Lord Drayson's opinion was *(a)* sought and *(b)* given before the Prime Minister took the decision to transfer the Defence Export Services Organisation's responsibilities to UK Trade and Investment. [167777]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* It is not our practice to comment on exchanges of views between Ministers that take place in the normal course of formulating, and reaching decisions on, Government policy.

### Departmental Buildings

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding has been *(a)* made available and *(b)* spent to make the buildings occupied by his Department fully accessible to disabled people. [166831]

**Derek Twigg:** Expenditure on Disability Discrimination Act-related improvements is contained within overall project costs. Thus, this Department does not identify separately either total funding or the amount spent in making alterations to buildings for these purposes.

### Departmental ICT

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been allocated to the Atlas Consortium defence information infrastructure programme; how much is expected to have been spent on the programme by 31 March 2008; and whether he plans to extend the system to in-theatre forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. [167208]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** As at 20 November 2007, the Ministry of Defence has an approved allocation of £4.068 billion for the fixed element of the Defence Information Infrastructure Future (DII(F)) programme and an approved allocation of £0.384 billion for the deployed element. This total allocation includes £3.372 billion (at current prices, including VAT) for the presently contracted elements of the programme between the MOD and the DII Delivery Partner, the ATLAS Consortium.

Currently, forecast expenditure to 31 March 2008 is £1.2 billion against the approved allocation.

We have already deployed an interim capability to Afghanistan. The first main deployable element of DII(F) now on contract will be available in 2009 to support our military forces wherever they are deployed, including Afghanistan and Iraq.

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167231]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Information on manufacturers' software is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### HMS Illustrious

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of the last refit of HMS Illustrious. [167531]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The last refit for HMS Illustrious cost £118.6 million.

### Influenza: Disease Control

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the guidelines on the use of defence assets in addressing a national crisis, such as an influenza pandemic. [164975]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The guidance for the use of defence assets during civil crises is detailed in the military aid section of the recovery guidance on the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat resilience website at:

http://www.ukresilience.info/response/recovery_guidance/generic_issues/military_aid.aspx

which is available to all emergency planners.

In summary, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 mandates that category 1 responders (emergency services) and category 2 responders (e.g. utility companies) must develop contingency plans for civil crises. Apart from the niche capabilities guaranteed by Defence, the guidance states that armed forces are not to be included in the contingency plans, as it is not possible to define in advance what assets can be provided by Defence. MOD is none the less working with the CCS to define what further Defence capabilities are most likely to be required in the event of a major national crisis.

### Iraq: Hercules Aircraft

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which recommendations of the Board of Enquiry into the crash of the Hercules XV179 in Iraq in January 2005 have been implemented. [167636]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Recommendations a to f, h to j and l of the XV179 Board of Inquiry have been implemented with work ongoing to implement recommendation k. The recommendations made by the board may be reviewed at the following web address:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/11CE3621-6E6E-4599-9156-FF1DBF76B596/0/boi_raf_hercules.pdf

### Iraq: Military Aircraft

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the four Army Britten Norman Defender Aircraft have been withdrawn from service in Iraq; [167748]

(2) who has been operating the four Army Britten Norman Defender aircraft while they have been on service in Iraq. [167749]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Army Britten Norman Defender Aircraft are operated by the Army Air Corps. They have not been withdrawn from service in Iraq.

### Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

**Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 127-28W, on the Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft, what the in-service date is of each category. [166910]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1854W. The System Development and Demonstration phase is due to be completed in late 2013 and the other elements are dependent on when the in-service date is set.

### Military Aircraft: Procurement

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what cost limit applies to the purchase of the *(a)* Eurofighter Typhoon and *(b)* Joint Strike Fighter aircraft; and how many of each he plans to buy. [167362]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The estimated cost of the Eurofighter Typhoon programme is commercially sensitive information which is protected in order to maintain our negotiating position for future acquisitions on the Typhoon programme. The UK has undertaken, through international MOU arrangements, to procure 232 Typhoon aircraft in three tranches. So far, the UK has contracted for the delivery of two tranches, comprising 144 aircraft. Decisions on tranche 3 will be taken in due

course, in conjunction with our partner nations, once we have analysed and considered the relevant information.

With regard to the cost of joint combat aircraft, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 974W, and 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1356W, noting that the procurement cost given includes development and non-recurring costs.

### Military Attaches

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been undertaken to assess the impact on UK defence sales of the reduction in the number of defence attaché assigned to UK embassies and overseas missions. [166844]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The role of defence attachés is principally to promote the Government's policies in the area of international security co-operation and to give support to current or potential UK operational commitments. Therefore, most defence attachés spend a small proportion of time dealing with defence exports. There are separate staff employed in UK embassies to promote defence exports, where it is necessary. We do not expect an adverse impact on defence sales arising from the redeployment of defence attachés.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the function is of the Warhead Pre-Concept Working Group in the nuclear weapons programme; and what the projected cost is of work carried out by this Working Group over the next three years. [168880]

**Des Browne:** The Warhead Pre-Concept Working Group was set up to co-ordinate research in support of the detailed review described in paragraph 7-4 of the December 2006 White Paper: "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cmd 6994). This review will examine the optimum life of the UK's existing nuclear warhead stockpile and assess the range of replacement options that might be available to help inform decisions likely to be necessary in the next Parliament.

The value of work being overseen by the WPCWG in 2007-08 amounts to some £10 million. Comparable levels of expenditure are projected for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

### Opinion Leader Research

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165272]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Opinion Leader has carried out research for Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers (SaBRE)—the MOD marketing and communications campaign that aims to gain and maintain the support of the employers of reservists. The research entitled "Opinion Leader Attitudes into Reserve Forces" was quantitative research to capture and track opinion leader attitudes and supportiveness towards volunteer reserves. It was carried out in four waves with summary findings provided to SaBRE on 22 December 2004, 11 July and 21 October 2005 and 2 June 2006. Turnaround for each wave from commission through to delivery was two months. The first wave cost was £1,800 with successive waves costing £1,900 each. These research contracts were awarded and paid for by the Central Office of Information (COI) on behalf of SaBRE. They were not tendered as COI rule it uneconomical to tender projects under £10,000.

### Trident Missiles

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Trident D5 missiles are equipped with permissive action links. [167914]

**Des Browne:** No. Robust arrangements are in place for the political control of the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms exist for the monitoring of UK aid to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [167623]

**Mr. Malik:** In Afghanistan, the Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board is the overarching body responsible for monitoring political and development progress. It was established to monitor the implementation of the Afghanistan compact and provide a forum to provide direction on major policy issues or blockages (e.g. problems with co-ordination or financing). It meets four times a year and is attended by heads of mission and chaired by the UN special representative and the Afghan President's senior economic adviser.

In addition, various groups meet to co-ordinate international reconstruction and development work in Afghanistan:

Eight consultative groups (sector level) and 22 working groups (line ministry level) all comprising Afghan Government and international community representatives, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the compact, contribute to budget formulation, and monitor aid effectiveness with their sector.

The External Advisory Group meets every month and is a forum for donors to discuss progress on the Afghanistan national development strategy (ANDS). Chaired by DFID since August 2006, it is a tool for pushing the government on ANDS issues and preserving donor buy-in.

The Policy Action Group was set up by General Richards and President Karzai as a short term response to security difficulties in the south. It is chaired by the Minister of Education Hanif Atmar and UN assistance mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). There are four pillars: security, information, reconstruction and development and international.

World bank-led donor meetings are meetings of donors only, with no Government representation, to discuss Afghanistan national development strategy issues. These meetings are usually focused on economic issues.

DFID, the FCO and the Multi-Departmental Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit use a series of internal reporting mechanisms for monitoring aid delivered to Afghanistan.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164924]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** One civil servant currently supports the two special advisers in the Department for International Development (DFID); one additional civil servant is being recruited to support the special advisers from December 2007.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed, to protect the privacy of those concerned.

### Papua New Guinea: International Assistance

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what development projects his Department has in Papua New Guinea; and what their budgets are for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [168142]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID currently funds two development projects in Papua New Guinea (PNG) through the Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF). These projects focus on: (i) improving the sexual and reproductive health and gender equity status of the population and; (ii) strengthening the capacity of communities to improve education and income-generation opportunities. DFID's budget for the CSCF for PNG in 2007-08 is £343,235 and £316,010 for 2008-09. DFID also provides assistance to PNG indirectly through its contribution to the European development fund, international financial institutions and the global funds.

### Somalia: Asylum

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people displaced from Mogadishu following the latest violence between insurgents and the allied Ethiopian and government troops; and whether any changes are planned to the UK's humanitarian assistance for Somalia. [167206]

**Mr. Malik:** The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that 197,000 people have fled from Mogadishu since the start of October. The Department for International Development (DFID) continues to provide humanitarian assistance on the basis of need. DFID's regional humanitarian adviser has visited Somalia in the last month to assess the situation first hand, and we continue to keep an eye on the emerging situation. So far in 2007, the UK has provided £8.6 million in new commitments to humanitarian operations in Somalia.

### Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether it is Government policy to support additional security options, including the deployment of a robust multinational force or coalition of the willing in Somalia, as suggested in the UN Secretary General's recent report (S/2007/658). [165988]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Government supports African Union and United Nations efforts to promote peace and security in Somalia. We have contributed financially to the current AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), most recently to facilitate the deployment of Burundian troops. We believe that AMISOM should be succeeded by an effective UN mission, provided that the conditions on the ground are right. UN Security Council Resolution 1772 requests that planning for a UN mission takes place and that the international community work to identify actions to create the conditions that would enable deployment to take place.

### Sudan

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* annual income per household, *(b)* global acute malnutrition rate, *(c)* literacy rate and *(d)* life expectancy in each state in Sudan. [167004]

**Mr. Malik:** As there has not been a household budget survey in Sudan since 1978, there are no up to date estimates of annual income per household. However, gross national product (GNP) per capita in 2006 was estimated to equal US$ 970. Given that the average household consists of six people, GNP per household can be estimated to be around US$ 5800.

Global acute malnutrition rates in Sudan vary significantly by region, year and season and it is not easy to give an average rate for the whole country. Due to conflict and poor harvests, some areas of Sudan have global acute malnutrition rates well above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent. during the hungry season with, for example, parts of Darfur having rates among children under five of 30-40 per cent. Using an alternative measure of malnutrition, the 2006 household health survey revealed that 31 per cent. of all children under five in Sudan were moderately underweight, while 9.4 per cent. were severely underweight.

In 2000, which is the latest year available, the literacy rate in Sudan was 61 per cent. For the whole of Sudan, average life expectancy at birth was 57 years in 2005. Figures per state are not available.

### Sudan: Infant Mortality

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* neonatal, *(b)* post-natal and *(c)* infant mortality rates in each state in Sudan. [167075]

**Mr. Malik:** The following table provides information on neonatal, infant and under-five mortality rates in all

the states of Sudan in 2006. Child mortality rates tend to be highest in the Three Area region (specifically South Kordofan and blue Nile) and Southern states, reflecting the poor coverage of maternal and other health care services in these states. Despite the conflict in Darfur, child mortality rates in Darfur states tend to be below the average in Sudan, although this is not the case for West Darfur. This is due to the extensive provision of healthcare services by humanitarian agencies. Post neo-natal and infant mortality rates are also higher for females than males.

*Neonatal, infant and under-five mortality rates in the five years preceding the SHHS*

| *Background characteristics* | *Neonatal mortality rate[1] (per 1,000 live births)* | *Post neo-natal mortality rate[2] (per 1,000 live births)* | *Infant mortality rate[3] (per 1,000 live births)* | *Child mortality rate[4] (per 1,000 live births)* | *Under-five mortality rate[5] (per 1,000 live births)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Sex* | | | | | |
| Male | 41 | 37 | 78 | 30 | 106 |
| Female | 41 | 43 | 84 | 38 | 119 |
| *State* | | | | | |
| Northern | 35 | 22 | 57 | 13 | 70 |
| River Nile | 40 | 29 | 69 | 24 | 91 |
| Red Sea | 37 | 36 | 73 | 56 | 126 |
| Kassala | 31 | 26 | 56 | 26 | 81 |
| Gadarif | 43 | 43 | 86 | 55 | 137 |
| Khartoum | 32 | 37 | 69 | 19 | 87 |
| Gezira | 27 | 25 | 52 | 11 | 63 |
| Sinnar | 32 | 30 | 62 | 39 | 99 |
| Blue Nile | 48 | 52 | 99 | 88 | 178 |
| White Nile | 34 | 23 | 57 | 35 | 89 |
| N. Kordofan | 39 | 22 | 61 | 29 | 88 |
| S. Kordofan | 48 | 50 | 98 | 54 | 147 |
| N. Darfur | 34 | 35 | 69 | 28 | 95 |
| W. Darfur | 42 | 51 | 93 | 50 | 138 |
| S. Darfur | 28 | 39 | 67 | 33 | 98 |
| Jonglei | 38 | 35 | 74 | 37 | 108 |
| Upper Nile | 54 | 29 | 82 | 30 | 110 |
| Unity | 30 | 34 | 64 | 20 | 82 |
| Warap | 66 | 72 | 139 | 44 | 176 |
| NBG | 67 | 62 | 129 | 41 | 165 |
| WBG | 37 | 60 | 97 | 41 | 134 |
| Lakes | 49 | 40 | 90 | 27 | 114 |
| W. Equatoria | 69 | 82 | 151 | 49 | 192 |
| C. Equatoria | 56 | 51 | 107 | 39 | 141 |
| E. Equatoria | 40 | 43 | 83 | 38 | 118 |
| Sudan | 41 | 40 | 81 | 34 | 112 |
| *Mother's education* | | | | | |
| None | 43 | 43 | 86 | 39 | 121 |
| Primary | 37 | 37 | 74 | 24 | 96 |
| Secondary+ | 41 | 20 | 61 | 30 | 89 |
| *Wealth index quintiles* | | | | | |
| Poorest | 45 | 49 | 95 | 38 | 129 |
| Second | 44 | 39 | 84 | 41 | 121 |
| Middle | 40 | 42 | 81 | 38 | 116 |
| Fourth | 38 | 32 | 70 | 26 | 94 |
| Richest | 31 | 33 | 65 | 20 | 84 |

[1] SHHS indicator 1: Neonatal mortality rate (probability of infants dying during the first 28 completed days of life, per 1000 live births
[2] SHHS indicator 2: Post neo-natal mortality rate (probability of infants dying between one month and exactly one year of age, per 1,000 live births)
[3] SHHS indicator 3: Infant mortality rate (probability of dying between birth and exactly one year of age, per 1,000 live births); MDG indicator 14
[4] SHHS indicator 4: Child mortality rate (probability of dying between the first and fifth birth days, per 1,000 live births)
[5] SHHS indicator 5: Under-five mortality rate (probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age, per 1,000 live births); MDG indicator 13
NBG = Northern Bahr El Ghazal, WBG = Western Bahr El Ghazal
*Source:*
2006 Sudan Household Health Survey

## SOLICITOR-GENERAL

### Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006: Prosecutions

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many people have been charged with offences under the Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006. [167552]

**The Solicitor-General:** The records held by the CPS provide no information on the number of defendants charged or prosecuted for specific offences. However, the CPS does identify by act and section the number of offences which reached a first hearing in the magistrates courts.

These records show that, as of November 2007, two offences under sections 2 and 4 of the Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006 had reached a first hearing; one was prosecuted by CPS West Mercia and the other by CPS Gloucestershire.

### National Fraud Reporting Centre

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Solicitor-General (1) when she expects the proposed national fraud reporting centre to become operational; [167110]

(2) what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* annual running costs of the proposed national fraud reporting centre are expected to be. [167111]

**The Solicitor-General:** The comprehensive spending review announced new investment of over £28 million from HM Government for 2008 to 2011 in the UK's fight against fraud. Part of this new investment has been earmarked for the establishment of the national fraud reporting centre, which is expected to become operational early in 2009.

Establishment and running costs remain confidential at present under the terms of HM Treasury's settlement letter and due to the commercially sensitive nature of the detailed development work that is now under way towards making the national fraud reporting centre a reality.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children in Care

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children from each local authority area were looked after by another local authority in *(a)* local authority children's homes, *(b)* private children's homes, *(c)* foster care, *(d)* hostels and *(e)* under other arrangements; [166237]

(2) how many children aged *(a)* 0 to five years, *(b)* six to 10 years and *(c)* 11 to 16 years old from each local authority area were looked after outside their local authority area in (i) local authority children's homes, (ii) private children's homes, (iii) foster care, (iv) hostels and (v) under other arrangements in each of the last five years. [166238]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The information is not readily available. I will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and will place a copy of my response in the Library.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of expenditure by his Department and its predecessor on all forms of consultancy for each *(a)* year and *(b)* quarter from 31 March 1997; and if he will make a statement. [163552]

**Kevin Brennan:** Historical figures are not available for DCSF and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Figures for the Department for Education and Skills show that it spent the following sums from administration costs on consultancy from 1997:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 3.9 |
| 1998-99 | 5.0 |
| 1999-2000 | 3.7 |
| 2000-01 | 4.3 |
| 2001-02 | 5.0 |
| 2002-03 | 4.0 |
| 2003-04 | 4.7 |
| 2004-05 | 3.9 |
| 2005-06 | 3.5 |
| 2006-07 | 4.1 |

The costs of consultancy charged to programmes budgets before November 2004 were not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The total cost of consultancy charged to programmes from November to March 2004-05 was £4.4 million and for the whole of 2005-06 was £18 million. A further £9.5 million in November to March 2004-05 and £8 million in 2005-06 was spent on other external expert advisers on education and children's matters to assist with policy implementation and delivery. The total cost of consultancy charged to programmes for 2006-07 was £41 million with a further £14 million spent on other external expert advisers.

Quarterly information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what entertainment or hospitality members of his Department's management board have received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164747]

**Kevin Brennan:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets; what the value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [164514]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 794W, to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws).

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Fallow Initiative

**Mr. Doran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many fallow fields there are in the United Kingdom sector of the North Sea and Atlantic Ocean in which there has been no development over the last 10 years; and which company currently holds the licence to develop in each case. [167866]

**Malcolm Wicks:** There are 258 discovered fields undeveloped for 10 years or more. Of these:

25 are unlicensed and will be offered in the next licensing round;

84 have been awarded in recent licensing rounds since 2002, of which 58 are on traditional licences, and 26 are on promote licences (where there is no formal operator);

8 have development plans pending approval;

26 have seen seismic activity or appraisal drilling within the past three years;

59 are the subject of significant activity such as seismic reprocessing;

13 currently have technical obstacles to overcome, such as lack of capacity or lack of infrastructure, which are being addressed;

43 have no activity planned and are due to be surrendered for re-licensing within two years if no plan for development is presented. aforementioned

The following table covers all of the aforementioned discoveries and shows operators where applicable.

| *Discovery well number* | *Operator* |
|---|---|
| 210/29a-3 | Promote Licence |
| 3/11-1 | Unlicensed |
| 211/11-1 | Promote Licence |
| 13/22b-4 | Unlicensed |
| 48/22-1 | Unlicensed |
| 48/22-4 | Promote Licence |
| 20/08-2 | Unlicensed |
| 16/06b-6 | Unlicensed |
| 48/02b-3 | Unlicensed |
| 210/25c-6A | Promote Licence |
| 21/29b-9 | Unlicensed |
| 42/15a-2 | Unlicensed |
| 50/26b-6 | Unlicensed |
| 3/08c-12 | Unlicensed |
| 48/02-1 | Promote Licence |
| 29/08a-4 | Unlicensed |
| 43/13a-1 | Promote Licence |
| 43/20-1 | Promote Licence |
| 30/29a-1 | Promote Licence |
| 42/15b-1 | Unlicensed |
| 42/10b-2Z | Unlicensed |
| 43/17-2 | Unlicensed |
| 42/22-1 | Promote Licence |
| 43/18-1 | Promote Licence |
| 21/29b-4 | Unlicensed |
| 22/28b-2 | Unlicensed |
| 39/16-1 | Promote Licence |
| 43/23-1 | Promote Licence |
| 48/24b-2 | Unlicensed |
| 47/09b-4 | Promote Licence |
| 9/12-3 | Promote Licence |
| 3/08b-10 | Unlicensed |
| 15/07-1 | Promote Licence |
| 15/21-2 | Promote Licence |
| 49/02-3 | Promote Licence |
| 16/03a-4 | Promote Licence |
| 15/26-1 | Unlicensed |
| 41/25a-1 | Promote Licence |
| 41/20-2 | Promote Licence |
| 9/21-2 | Promote Licence |
| 9/12b-6 | Promote Licence |
| 14/26b-4 | Unlicensed |
| 49/22-16 | Promote Licence |
| 14/26b-5 | Unlicensed |
| 110/04-1 | Promote Licence |
| 15/21b-45 | Promote Licence |
| 41/24a-1 | Promote Licence |
| 15/26a-2 | Unlicensed |
| 21/28a-2 | Antrim Resources |
| 211/22a-3 | Antrim Resources |
| 21/28a-6 | Antrim Resources |
| 16/29-4 | Apache Corporation |
| 2/15-1 | ATP Oil and Gas Corporation |
| 2/15a-9 | ATP Oil and Gas Corporation |
| 2/10a-6 | ATP Oil and Gas Corporation |
| 3/11b-4Z | ATP Oil and Gas Corporation |
| 13/30-2 | BG International |
| 30/08-2 | BG International |
| 22/08a-2 | BG International |
| 110/13-17 | BHP Billiton Petroleum |
| 16/23-2 | BP Exploration |
| 204/19-6 | BP Exploration |
| 206/11-1 | BP Exploration |
| 9/23b-21 | BP Exploration |
| 9/24b-1A | BP Exploration |
| 16/22-2 | BP Exploration |
| 30/01c-3 | BP Exploration |
| 47/03e-9 | BP Exploration |
| 98/11-2 | BP Exploration |
| 211/07a-2 | BP Exploration |
| 98/07-2 | BP Exploration |
| 47/03e-8 | BP Exploration |
| 204/19-8Z | BP Exploration |
| 48/21-1 | Bridge E&P Corporation |
| 11/24-1 | Caithness Petroleum |
| 48/08a-1 | Centrica Resources |

| *Discovery well number* | *Operator* |
|---|---|
| 110/08a-5 | Centrica Resources |
| 49/09a-5 | Centrica Resources |
| 113/27-2 | Centrica Resources |
| 49/09-1 | Centrica Resources |
| 48/07c-11 | Centrica Resources |
| 9/23b-19 | Century Exploration |
| 48/25a-4 | Century Exploration |
| 48/24a-1 | Century Exploration |
| 110/14-1 | Challenger Minerals |
| 15/29a-9 | Chevron Corporation |
| 207/01-3 | Chevron Corporation |
| 9/11-2 | Chevron Corporation |
| 9/11b-11 | Chevron Corporation |
| 3/28a-2 | Chevron Corporation |
| 206/02-1 | Chevron Corporation |
| 15/29a-3 | Chevron Corporation |
| 29/02a-2 | CNR International |
| 22/27a-2 | CNR International |
| 3/07-3 | CNR International |
| 211/28-1A | CNR International |
| 3/03-8 | CNR International |
| 110/08a-4 | Conocophillips (U.K.) |
| 30/07a-10 | Conocophillips (U.K.) |
| 15/30-2 | Conocophillips (U.K.) |
| 110/02b-10 | Conocophillips (U.K.) |
| 110/02b-11 | Conocophillips (U.K.) |
| 30/13-3 | Conocophillips (U.K.) |
| 110/14-2 | Conocophillips (U.K.) |
| 42/29-6 | Dana Petroleum plc. |
| 211/22-1 | Dana Petroleum plc. |
| 210/24a-8 | Dana Petroleum plc. |
| 42/29-7 | Dana Petroleum plc. |
| 23/16d-6 | Dana Petroleum plc. |
| 211/13-1 | Dana Petroleum plc. |
| 211/08a-2 | Dana Petroleum plc. |
| 21/17-4 | Dana Petroleum plc. |
| 21/17-3 | Dana Petroleum plc. |
| 214/30-1 | Dansk Olie OG Naturgas A/S |
| 43/27-2 | E.On Ruhrgas UK North Sea |
| 48/02-2 | E.On Ruhrgas UK North Sea |
| 44/22c-9 | E.On Ruhrgas UK North Sea |
| 113/28-2 | Eclipse Energy Company |
| 113/29-2 | Eclipse Energy Company |
| 43/08-1 | Encore Petroleum Ltd. |
| 30/25a-4 | Endeavour International |
| 12/27a-3 | Endeavour International |
| 12/27-1 | Endeavour International |
| 16/18-1 | ENI UK Ltd. |
| 16/23-4 | ENI UK Ltd. |
| 110/12a-1 | Eog Resources Inc. |
| 9/18a-15 | Exxonmobil International |
| 48/18a-4 | Exxonmobil International |
| 9/19-3 | Exxonmobil International |
| 9/19-4 | Exxonmobil International |
| 48/18c-5 | Exxonmobil International |
| 206/10a-1 | Faroe Petroleum plc. |
| 44/13-1 | Gaz De France |
| 44/27-1 | Gaz De France |
| 44/12-1 | Gaz De France |
| 44/29b-4 | Gaz De France |
| 44/16-1Z | Gaz De France |
| 22/24b-8 | Gaz De France |

| *Discovery well number* | *Operator* |
|---|---|
| 16/08c-13 | Genesis Petroleum Europe |
| 53/01-3 | Helix Energy Solutions |
| 53/01a-13 | Helix Energy Solutions |
| 47/02-1 | Hess Ltd. |
| 204/28-1 | Hurricane Exploration |
| 12/21-2 | Ithaca Energy Inc. |
| 14/18b-7 | Ithaca Energy Inc. |
| 14/18-1 | Ithaca Energy Inc. |
| 14/18b-12 | Ithaca Energy Inc. |
| 205/26a-4 | Lundin Petroleum BV |
| 21/13b-1A | Lundin Petroleum BV |
| 211/28a-7 | Lundin Petroleum BV |
| 9/10b-1 | Lundin Petroleum BV |
| 9/15a-1 | Lundin Petroleum BV |
| 2/05-10 | Lundin Petroleum BV |
| 30/02-1 | Maersk Oil (UK) |
| 30/14-1 | Maersk Oil (UK) |
| 4/26-1A | Maersk Oil (UK) |
| 22/27a-1 | Maersk Oil (UK) |
| 15/20b-11 | Maersk Oil (UK) |
| 16/21d-31 | Maersk Oil (UK) |
| 103/01-1 | Marathon Oil UK Ltd. |
| 9/02-1 | Masefield Energy Holdings |
| 15/13-2 | National Iranian Oil Co. |
| 15/21b-47 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 15/21b-50 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 15/19-4 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 15/19-6 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 20/03-4 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 15/21a-7 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 21/02-1 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 21/02-2 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 21/15a-2 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 15/21a-51 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 15/21a-38Z | Nexen Petroleum |
| 15/23d-13 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 15/21a-46 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 22/22b-2 | Nexen Petroleum |
| 15/24a-4 | Nippon Oil Corporation |
| 21/20b-4 | Noble Energy Europe |
| 22/02-2 | Oilexco Incorporated |
| 22/14b-3 | Oilexco Incorporated |
| 49/18-5Z | Perenco plc. |
| 21/30-12 | Perenco plc. |
| 49/28-2 | Perenco plc. |
| 21/30-17 | Perenco plc. |
| 48/17b-3 | Perenco plc. |
| 48/11a-12 | Perenco plc. |
| 44/18a-5 | Perenco plc. |
| 12/21-3 | Petro-Canada UK Holdings |
| 15/18a-6 | Petro-Canada UK Holdings |
| 21/24-1 | Petro-Canada UK Holdings |
| 211/18-9 | Petrofac Ltd. |
| 29/07-1 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 22/13a-2 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 211/23-6 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 22/23b-5 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 22/29-2 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 22/30a-16 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 22/13a-1 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 29/05a-1 | Royal Dutch Shell |

| *Discovery well number* | *Operator* |
|---|---|
| 23/16b-1 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 211/21-11 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 29/09a-1 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 29/10-4 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 29/10-2 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 30/06-3Z | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 48/19a-3 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 29/03-1 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 211/23b-11 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 13/24a-1A | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 211/23b-12 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 21/20a-5 | Royal Dutch Shell |
| 49/01-3 | RWE DEA UK Holdings |
| 43/20b-2 | RWE DEA UK Holdings |
| 14/15-2 | Serica Energy |
| 23/16a-2 | Serica Energy |
| 48/20b-6 | Silverstone SNS Ltd. |
| 48/25b-5 | Silverstone SNS Ltd. |
| 42/13-2 | Sterling Resources |
| 16/03a-11 | Stratic Energy |
| 16/02b-4 | Stratic Energy |
| 30/13-2 | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 16/22-5 | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 30/13-1 | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 15/17-24 | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 16/13a-2Z | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 16/22-1 | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 15/17-25 | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 22/18-3 | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 22/19-1 | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 14/14-1 | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 15/17-8A | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 14/20-6Z | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 15/17-26 | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| 3/30-3 | Total E&P UK plc. |
| 3/30a-4 | Total E&P UK plc. |
| 3/10b-1 | Total E&P UK plc. |
| 3/09a-11 | Total E&P UK plc. |
| 3/04-7 | Total E&P UK plc. |
| 206/01-2 | Total E&P UK plc. |
| 3/09a-8 | Total E&P UK plc. |
| 44/28d-5 | Tullow UK |
| 44/28-3 | Tullow UK |
| 49/03-3 | Tullow UK |
| 28/02-1 | Venture Production |
| 30/11b-4 | Venture Production |
| 49/10b-3 | Venture Production |
| 48/14-2 | Venture Production |
| 30/11b-3 | Venture Production |
| 29/09b-2 | Venture Production |
| 29/08a-3 | Venture Production |
| 29/06a-3 | Venture Production |
| 43/16-2 | Venture Production |
| 22/22c-3Z | Venture Production |
| 21/27-1A | Venture Production |
| 21/19-1A | Venture Production |
| 29/08b-2 | Venture Production |
| 44/19-3 | Wintershall B.V. |
| 9/03-1 | Xcite Energy |

## HM Revenue and Customs: Legal Profession

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* lawyers and *(b)* legal firms have been given work by HM Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office since 1 January 2005; and what the cost was of such contracts, broken down by (i) lawyer and (ii) firm. [164498]

**The Solicitor-General:** I have been asked to reply.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office employed 1,738 counsel from the Attorney-General's approved list between 1 January 2005 and 30 September 2007 at a total cost of £32.0 million.

In the same period the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office also employed the services of 23 legal firms at a total cost of £446,000.

A schedule of total payments to each individual and firm has been placed in the Library.

## Post Offices: Closures

**Michael Jabez Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the net savings to Post Office Ltd of the closure of *(a)* the St. Leonards Green Post Office, *(b)* the White Rock Post Office in St. Leonards, *(c)* the Hastings Old Town Post Office and *(d)* the Tilling Green Post Office in Rye. [168450]

**Mr. McFadden:** The development of proposals for specific post office closures is a matter for Post Office Ltd. with input from Postwatch, local authorities and subpostmasters. The consultation period for the Sussex area plan covering Hastings and Rye constituency closes on 24 December. Final decisions on which post offices will close will be taken by Post Office Ltd. in light of the responses received to the area consultations.

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the remaining post offices can accommodate greater numbers of customers as part of the Post Office closure programme. [168522]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

**John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government are taking to ensure the Post Office takes into account local factors such as public transport access before closing a post office. [168530]

**Mr. McFadden:** In formulating its area plans, Post Office Ltd. is required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy.

### Postal Services

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to his oral answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1328, on postal services, what precedents there are for consultations to be suspended in advance of local elections. [168702]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* Cabinet Office guidelines clearly state that consultations, and decisions relating to them, should not be launched in an election period. Successive Administrations of both parties have observed these arrangements for many years.

### Trade Unions: Finance

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether trades union members who opt out of the union's political fund are charged the cost of the political fund contribution when they pay their union subscription. [164221]

**Mr. McFadden:** Where trade union members opt out of contributing to their union's political fund, the union must ensure they do not make payments into the political fund via a separate political levy or via other subscription payments to the union. It is also unlawful for a union to penalise individuals who opt out by excluding them from any benefit, or by directly or indirectly placing them at a disability or disadvantage (except in relation to the control or management of the political fund).

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Animal Experiments

**Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* genetically modified animals and *(b)* animals with a harmful genetic defect were used in regulated procedures conducted in Scotland under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2006. [167726]

**Meg Hillier:** Comprehensive statistics of scientific procedures on living animals in Great Britain carried out under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 are published annually. Copies of the publication for 2006 (Cm 7153) can be found in the House Library.

The data are not collected, stored or presented in a way enabling them to be easily broken down between England, Wales and Scotland as the 1986 Act is administered by the Home Office for the whole of Great Britain (it is administered separately in Northern Ireland). However, a special exercise has been undertaken to extract the information requested in relation to Scotland.

During 2006 there were 127,253 genetically modified animals and 11,643 animals with a harmful genetic defect used in regulated procedures conducted in Scotland under the 1986 Act.

### Animal Experiments: Primates

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will publish the records of discussions within her Department which took place on the grant of a project licence to Professor Tipu Aziz permitting him to conduct scientific procedures on the primate Felix; [165387]

(2) whether the Animal Procedures Committee in granting a licence for experiments on Felix the primate took into account the extent to which those experiments had been *(a)* documented in scientific literature and *(b)* previously conducted on (i) non human primates and (ii) human patients. [165388]

**Meg Hillier:** I have no plans to disclose the records of discussions relating to applications for project licences under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Any such records may include information provided in confidence the disclosure of which, other than in the discharge of functions under the Act, is prohibited by section 24 of the same Act.

Under section 20(2) of the 1986 Act, when considering any matter, the Animal Procedures Committee must have regard to the legitimate requirements of science and industry and to the protection of animals against avoidable suffering and unnecessary use in scientific procedures. I am confident that the Committee's advice on individual project licence applications takes full account of all relevant factors in line with this requirement.

### Police

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average *(a)* length of service and *(b)* retirement age was for police constables in each of the last 10 years. [168641]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is as follows:

*(a)* The information requested cannot be calculated from the centrally collected data within the police personnel statistics series.

*(b)* Retirement age cannot be separately identified from the available data. The available data are the age on leaving the service within the following time bands only: 25 and under, 26 to 40, 41 to 55 and over 55.

### Police Custody: Wales

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average occupancy rate was of police custody suites in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Dyfed-Powys police area and *(c)* Pembrokeshire in (i) 2006 and (ii) since 1 January 2007; [166249]

(2) what the capacity is of police custody units in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Dyfed-Powys police area and *(c)* Pembrokeshire. [166250]

**Mr. McNulty:** The provision and operation of, and collation of information in respect of, police custody accommodation are matters for chief constables and police authorities.

## Police Patrolling

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average proportion of a police officer's day spent on patrol in each of the last 10 years. [165675]

**Mr. McNulty:** Data on time spent on patrol only offers a partial indication of policing activity. Information on time spent on front-line duties by police officers has only been collected since 2003-04. Year by year information is set out in the following table.

*Time spent on patrol 2004 to 2007*

| | *Percentage time spent on front-line duties* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 62.1 |
| 2004-05 | 62.6 |
| 2005-06 | 63.1 |
| 2006-07 | 64.2 |

## Police: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are employed in West Chelmsford constituency; and what proportion of their time is spent on street patrols. [166242]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* Figures collected by the Home Office show numbers of officers deployed to each Basic Command Unit (BCU) in Essex. The closest BCU to the West Chelmsford constituency is Essex Central. The figures show that on 31 March 2007, the latest published period, there were 506 officers in Essex Central BCU. This figure excludes police community support officers and police staff, and also excludes officers and staff in Central Services, which covers the police HQ in Chelmsford.

The Home Office estimates time spent on patrol, but these figures are not collected or estimated below police force area level.

## Police: Injuries

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police officers were off work for longer than a week as a result of injuries sustained while on duty in each police force in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. [169214]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available data are for long-term absences due to an assault which occurred within the realms of duty. Long-term absences are those which have lasted for more than 28 calendar days, and assaults include those incidents where there was no injury to the officer. The data are collected "as at" a particular date rather than throughout the course of the year, therefore the data provided are for the number of officers on sick absence as at 31 March 2007.

*Number (FTE)[1] and percentage[2] of police officers in England on long-term certified sickness absence due to an assault[3] as at 31 March 2007*

| Police force | *Number of police officers on certified sickness due to assault* | *Percentage of police officers on certified sickness due to assault* |
|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 0.00 | 0.0 |
| Bedfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Cheshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Cleveland | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Cumbria | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Derbyshire | 1.00 | 0.05 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1.00 | 0.03 |
| Dorset | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Durham | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Essex | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Gloucestershire | 1.00 | 0.08 |
| Greater Manchester | 1.00 | 0.01 |
| Hampshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Hertfordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Humberside | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Kent | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Lancashire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Leicestershire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Lincolnshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| London, City of | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Merseyside | 1.00 | 0.02 |
| Metropolitan Police | 6.00 | 0.02 |
| Norfolk | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Northamptonshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Northumbria | 2.00 | 0.05 |
| North Yorkshire | 3.00 | 0.18 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1.00 | 0.04 |
| South Yorkshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Staffordshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Suffolk | 1.00 | 0.07 |
| Surrey | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Sussex | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Thames Valley | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Warwickshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| West Mercia | 1.00 | 0.04 |
| West Midlands | 1.52 | 0.02 |
| West Yorkshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Wiltshire | 0.00 | 0.00 |

[1] Full-time equivalent figures.
[2] Officers absent as a percentage of the total police officer strength.
[3] Certified long-term sickness (over 28 calendar days) due to an assault occurring within the realms of duty. Assaults include those incidents where no injury was caused.

## Police: Resignations

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police officers in each police force area left the police force within two years of joining in each of the last 10 years. [168640]

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police recruits left the police force within two years of joining since 1997, broken down by police force area; and what percentage of leavers that figure represents. [165671]

**Mr. McNulty:** Data are available from 2002-03 onwards and are given in the following tables. The number of transfers between forces has been separately identified as these officers, while leaving individual police forces, have not left the police service itself.

*Number of police officers leaving the force with less than two years service and the percentage of total police officer leavers that this figure represents from 2002-03 to 2006-07*[1]

*2002-03*

| *Police force area* | *Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)* | *Number of police officers leaving the force with less than two years service* | *Percentage of police officers leaving with less than two years service* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 0 | 39 | 19 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 17 | 18 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1 | 17 | 16 |
| Cheshire | 0 | 6 | 5 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 5 | 8 |
| Derbyshire | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0 | 20 | 13 |
| Dorset | 0 | 13 | 19 |
| Durham | — | 6 | 8 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 1 | 6 | 11 |
| Essex | 4 | 23 | 11 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 13 | 16 |
| Greater Manchester | 2 | 56 | 15 |
| Gwent | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Hampshire | 3 | 29 | 13 |
| Hertfordshire | 3 | 33 | 17 |
| Humberside | — | 17 | 16 |
| Kent | 5 | 43 | 20 |
| Lancashire[2] | — | — | — |
| Leicestershire[3] | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| Lincolnshire | 5 | 15 | 21 |
| London, City of | 0 | 11 | 19 |
| Merseyside | 1 | 10 | 5 |
| Metropolitan Police | 16 | 410 | 24 |
| Norfolk | 0 | 12 | 13 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 | 8 | 14 |
| Northumbria | 0 | 20 | 12 |
| North Wales | 1 | 9 | 12 |
| North Yorkshire | — | 8 | 14 |
| Nottinghamshire | — | 8 | 6 |
| South Wales | 1 | 25 | 16 |
| South Yorkshire | 1 | 24 | 14 |
| Staffordshire | — | 12 | 9 |
| Suffolk | 1 | 12 | 14 |
| Surrey | 20 | 53 | 21 |
| Sussex | 2 | 47 | 19 |
| Thames valley | 13 | 53 | 14 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 12 | 21 |
| West Mercia | 1 | 13 | 11 |
| West Midlands | 4 | 88 | 17 |
| West Yorkshire | 1 | 30 | 12 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 10 | 12 |
| Total[4] | 96 | 1,244 | 16 |

*2003-04*

| *Police force area* | *Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)* | *Number of police officers leaving the force with less than two years service* | *Percentage of police officers leaving with less than two years service* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 0 | 33 | 23 |
| Bedfordshire | 1 | 22 | 21 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 10 | 11 |
| Cheshire | 2 | 12 | 11 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 9 | 11 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Derbyshire | 0 | 13 | 15 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0 | 10 | 8 |
| Dorset | 1 | 15 | 20 |
| Durham | 3 | 11 | 14 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 0 | 5 | 13 |
| Essex | 4 | 19 | 9 |
| Gloucestershire | 1 | 10 | 18 |
| Greater Manchester | 0 | 65 | 20 |
| Gwent | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Hampshire | 3 | 48 | 21 |
| Hertfordshire | 3 | 43 | 27 |
| Humberside | 4 | 22 | 23 |
| Kent | 1 | 45 | 20 |
| Lancashire[2] | 0 | 18 | 14 |
| Leicestershire[3] | 0 | 16 | 19 |
| Lincolnshire | 0 | 7 | 11 |
| London, City of | 0 | 5 | 9 |
| Merseyside | 0 | 14 | 8 |
| Metropolitan Police | 11 | 394 | 25 |
| Norfolk | 0 | 6 | 12 |
| Northamptonshire | 1 | 7 | 10 |
| Northumbria | 0 | 20 | 11 |
| North Wales | — | 7 | 12 |
| North Yorkshire | 0 | 7 | 9 |
| Nottinghamshire | 6 | 14 | 11 |
| South Wales | 4 | 11 | 7 |
| South Yorkshire | 3 | 23 | 14 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| Suffolk | 1 | 20 | 27 |
| Surrey | 11 | 40 | 27 |
| Sussex | 1 | 87 | 30 |
| Thames valley | 5 | 37 | 12 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 7 | 13 |
| West Mercia | 1 | 22 | 18 |
| West Midlands | 0 | 7 | 2 |
| West Yorkshire | 1 | 32 | 13 |
| Wiltshire | 3 | 14 | 21 |
| Total[4] | 71 | 1,191 | 17 |

*2004-05*

| *Police force area* | *Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service)* | *Number of police officers leaving the force with less than two years service* | *Percentage of police officers leaving with less than two years service* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 0 | 30 | 17 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 30 | 31 |

2004-05

| Police force area | Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service) | Number of police officers leaving the force with less than two years service | Percentage of police officers leaving with less than two years service |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| Cheshire | 1 | 17 | 16 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 14 | 17 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 8 | 18 |
| Derbyshire | 1 | 6 | 6 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0 | 18 | 10 |
| Dorset | 0 | 13 | 16 |
| Durham | 4 | 17 | 21 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 0 | 10 | 16 |
| Essex | 0 | 34 | 15 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 11 | 19 |
| Greater Manchester | 1 | 55 | 15 |
| Gwent | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| Hampshire | 3 | 37 | 14 |
| Hertfordshire | 1 | 38 | 24 |
| Humberside | 1 | 12 | 11 |
| Kent | 0 | 27 | 13 |
| Lancashire[2] | 1 | 21 | 13 |
| Leicestershire[3] | — | — | — |
| Lincolnshire | 3 | 14 | 18 |
| London, City of | 0 | 6 | 10 |
| Merseyside | 3 | 22 | 10 |
| Metropolitan Police | 3 | 214 | 16 |
| Norfolk | 0 | 7 | 9 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Northumbria | 1 | 20 | 12 |
| North Wales | 0 | 10 | 19 |
| North Yorkshire | 0 | 13 | 15 |
| Nottinghamshire | 4 | 15 | 10 |
| South Wales | 0 | 11 | 8 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 30 | 17 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 34 | 27 |
| Suffolk | 3 | 16 | 22 |
| Surrey | 11 | 30 | 19 |
| Sussex | 3 | 84 | 32 |
| Thames valley | 1 | 62 | 20 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| West Mercia | 2 | 13 | 11 |
| West Midlands | 4 | 72 | 16 |
| West Yorkshire | 3 | 40 | 15 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 11 | 14 |
| Total[4] | 55 | 1,125 | 16 |

2005-06

| Police force area | Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service) | Number of police officers leaving the force with less than two years service | Percentage of police officers leaving with less than two years service |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 0 | 15 | 8 |
| Bedfordshire | 0 | 16 | 18 |
| Cambridgeshire | 1 | 12 | 11 |
| Cheshire | 0 | 8 | 4 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 8 | 8 |

2005-06

| Police force area | Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service) | Number of police officers leaving the force with less than two years service | Percentage of police officers leaving with less than two years service |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cumbria | 0 | 5 | 7 |
| Derbyshire | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1 | 24 | 12 |
| Dorset | 0 | 15 | 14 |
| Durham | 4 | 16 | 16 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| Essex | 1 | 39 | 15 |
| Gloucestershire | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Greater Manchester | 0 | 43 | 9 |
| Gwent | 0 | 12 | 15 |
| Hampshire | 9 | 32 | 11 |
| Hertfordshire | 1 | 31 | 18 |
| Humberside | 2 | 20 | 13 |
| Kent | 3 | 23 | 8 |
| Lancashire[2] | 0 | 13 | 6 |
| Leicestershire[3] | 0 | 19 | 12 |
| Lincolnshire | 3 | 14 | 15 |
| London, City of | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Merseyside | 1 | 19 | 7 |
| Metropolitan Police | 0 | 95 | 6 |
| Norfolk | 0 | 11 | 12 |
| Northamptonshire | 0 | 10 | 11 |
| Northumbria | 0 | 13 | 6 |
| North Wales | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| North Yorkshire | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| South Wales | 0 | 13 | 7 |
| South Yorkshire | 0 | 21 | 9 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 12 | 11 |
| Suffolk | 0 | 10 | 11 |
| Surrey | 4 | 22 | 15 |
| Sussex | 1 | 49 | 22 |
| Thames valley | 1 | 41 | 12 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 5 | 7 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 9 | 6 |
| West Midlands | 9 | 63 | 13 |
| West Yorkshire | 1 | 63 | 17 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 12 | 16 |
| Total[4] | 36 | 829 | 10 |

2006-07

| Police force area | Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service) | Number of police officers leaving the force with less than two years service | Percentage of police officers leaving with less than two years service |
|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 2 | 10 | 6 |
| Bedfordshire | 1 | 12 | 21 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 12 | 13 |
| Cheshire | 0 | 16 | 14 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 16 | 21 |
| Cumbria | 0 | 7 | 14 |
| Derbyshire | 0 | 9 | 6 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 0 | 20 | 15 |

| Police force area | 2006-07 Number of transfers (included as part of overall officers leaving the service) | Number of police officers leaving the force with less than two years service | Percentage of police officers leaving with less than two years service |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dorset | 0 | 15 | 14 |
| Durham | 0 | 8 | 13 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Essex | 0 | 42 | 15 |
| Gloucestershire | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Greater Manchester | 0 | 20 | 4 |
| Gwent | 0 | 8 | 12 |
| Hampshire | 0 | 22 | 10 |
| Hertfordshire | 0 | 28 | 16 |
| Humberside | 1 | 16 | 13 |
| Kent | 0 | 14 | 6 |
| Lancashire[2] | 0 | 15 | 9 |
| Leicestershire[3] | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| Lincolnshire | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| London, City of | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Merseyside | 0 | 33 | 13 |
| Metropolitan Police | 5 | 81 | 5 |
| Norfolk | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| Northamptonshire | 3 | 13 | 13 |
| Northumbria | 0 | 13 | 7 |
| North Wales | 0 | 8 | 9 |
| North Yorkshire | 5 | 17 | 17 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0 | 6 | 4 |
| South Wales | 1 | 10 | 5 |
| South Yorkshire | 2 | 25 | 13 |
| Staffordshire | 0 | 12 | 10 |
| Suffolk | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Surrey | 6 | 51 | 27 |
| Sussex | 0 | 37 | 17 |
| Thames valley | 1 | 29 | 10 |
| Warwickshire | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 12 | 8 |
| West Midlands | 5 | 50 | 10 |
| West Yorkshire | 5 | 44 | 13 |
| Wiltshire | 2 | 6 | 10 |
| Total[4] | 44 | 760 | 10 |

[1] Leaving figures include police officers leaving the force within two years of joining or re-joining the service, due to dismissals (including requirement to resign), voluntary resignations, medical retirements, ordinary retirements, all transfers and all deaths.
[2] Data for Lancashire was not available in 2002-03.
[3] Data for Leicestershire was not available in 2004-05.
[4] In order to compare data between 2002-03 and 2006-07 Lancashire and Leicestershire have been excluded from the total.

## JUSTICE

### Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices for disorder were issued in the first six months of 2007, broken down by *(a)* police force area and *(b)* offences committed; and how many such penalty notices for disorder were (i) paid in full within the 21 day suspended enforcement period, (ii) paid in full outside the 21 day suspended enforcement period, (iii) registered as fines, (iv) contested in court and (v) cancelled. [167981]

**Maria Eagle:** Finalised data for the whole of 2006 covering the breakdowns requested will be available shortly. I will send the hon. Member a copy when it is available.

Data for 2007 will be available in 2008.

### Chemical and Insulating Company Ltd

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government plans to take in response to the judgment of the House of Lords in Rothwell *v.* Chemical and Insulating Company Ltd; and if he will make a statement. [168784]

**Bridget Prentice:** I refer the right hon. Member to my reply on both 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 141W, and 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 798W.

### Closed Circuit Television

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidelines there are on minimum pixel density of closed circuit television material used in courts. [168614]

**Maria Eagle:** There are no guidelines on the minimum pixel density of closed circuit television (CCTV) used in courts. CCTV is used to cover both internal and external areas of courts; the coverage provided varies according to the work of the court and its status. Coverage has evolved over time with a variety of systems and types of cameras being used.

Guidance to courts on the use of CCTV has been revised and the new version will be issued shortly and stresses the need for any system to deliver recognition (of persons and objects) and notes that developments in technology may bring changes in the types of equipment used.

Advice on the use of CCTV is part of the policy document, Safe and Secure, which sets out guidance and practice on security issues for HMCS; this is revised annually and, as a Restricted document, is not available to the general public.

### Courts: Interpreters

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Courts Service spent on translation and interpretation services in Cambridgeshire in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [168949]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost through the manual searching of individual court files. Her Majesty's Courts Service is giving consideration to the routine collection of data relating to interpreting and translation services used in court.

### Courts: Salisbury

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the latest estimate is of the cost of the new courts centre in Salisbury. [169290]

**Maria Eagle:** The new court centre in Salisbury is being procured via a private developer scheme whereby Her Majesty's Court Service will be taking on a lease for 30 years at an agreed rent which is in line with the market rate for this area of England. The construction value, as published in the OJEU award notice, was estimated at £14,236,706 excl VAT.

## Custodial Treatment: Methamphetamine

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted for *(a)* possession of the drug crystal meth and *(b)* possession with intent to supply that drug in each of the last six months; how many have been convicted; and how many received a custodial sentence. [166167]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the number of persons given prosecutions, convictions and custodial sentences received for possession or possession with intent to supply amphetamines or class B drugs in England and Wales for 2005, the latest year for which data are available, can be viewed in the following table.

Prior to its reclassification to a class A drug on 18 January 2007, Methylamphetamine ("crystal meth") was a class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

*The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for immediate custody for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(2) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 157, Sch 8, Part II. and Sec 5(3), in England and Wales for the year 2005[1, 2, 3]*

| *Statute* | *Offence description* | *Prosecuted* | *Guilty* | *Immediate custody* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(2) (Class 'B' Drug) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 157, Sch 8, Part II. | Having possession of a controlled drug: Amphetamine. | 2,184 | 2,094 | 65 |
| Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(2) (Class 'B' Drug) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 157, Sch 8, Part II. | Having possession of a controlled drug: Other Class 'B' | 162 | 149 | 11 |
| Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(3) (Class 'B' Drug). | Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Amphetamine. | 300 | 258 | 123 |
| Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(3) (Class 'B' Drug) | Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Other Class 'B'. | 31 | 16 | 5 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Prior to 18 January 2007 the possession of and/or with intent to supply Methylamphetamine was not a separate offence It was also reclassed from a class B to class A drug on 18 January 2007. Due to reclassification the table shows both amphetamine and class B data as methylamphetamine may have been recorded under one of those offences prior to reclassification The following are new acts and offence descriptions for Methylamphetamine offences:
The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S.4 (3)
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (or being concerned in) (Class 'A' Drug) Methylamphetamine (Crystal Meths)
The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S.5(2)
Having possession of a class A Drug (Class 'A' Drug) Methylamphetamine (Crystal Meths)
The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 S.5(3)
Having possession of a class A drug with intent to supply (Class 'A' Drug) Methylamphetamine (Crystal Meths)
*Source:*
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

## Custodial Treatment: Offensive Weapons

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons were *(a)* convicted of an offence of carrying a bladed article and *(b)* received a custodial sentence for such a crime in England and Wales in each of the last six months. [166078]

**Maria Eagle:** Information on the number of persons found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for carrying a bladed article in England and Wales for 2005 are shown in the following table.

Data for 2006 will be available shortly.

*The number of persons found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for the offences under the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 S.1, and the Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139, S.139(A) and 139(2) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1), in England and Wales for 2005[1, 2, 3]*

| | | *2005* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Statute* | *Offence description* | *Found guilty* | *Immediate custody* |
| Prevention of Crime Act 1953 S.1 | Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse | 5,728 | 829 |
| Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 | Having an article with a blade or point in a public place | 5,961 | 965 |
| Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139(A) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1) | Having an article with a blade or point on school premises | 44 | 5 |
| Criminal Justice Act 1988 139(2) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 5.4(1) | Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises | 29 | 3 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Excludes data provided by West Mercia police force area (for offences of carrying a knife on a school premises)
*Source:*
Court proceedings database held by RDS—OCJR, Ministry of Justice

### Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164290]

**Maria Eagle:** Catering services to meet my Department's requirements are contracted out and provided by commercial suppliers.

Where opportunities arise, my Department is committed to increasing the scope for small and medium-sized enterprises by encouraging our larger suppliers to increase their use of local suppliers within their supply chain.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166649]

**Maria Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the report published by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on 8 November 2007 that gives the proportion of UK produce supplied to Government Departments, NHS and HM Prison Service.

Copies of the report are available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/index.htm

and have been deposited in the House of Commons library.

### Departmental Data Protection

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials are employed by the Information Commissioner in investigating potential breaches of the Data Protection Act. [167982]

**Mr. Wills:** 54 staff work in the ICO's case reception and casework and advice departments. These staff make assessments of compliance under section 42 of the Act.

A further 22 staff are employed in the regulatory action division. This Department uses powers including criminal prosecution, non-criminal enforcement and audit to investigate non-compliance under the Act.

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168103]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry has an obligation under the Civil Service Commissioners Recruitment Code to ensure its recruitment processes are operating under open and fair principles. The MOJ only employs applicants who have the right to work in the UK, and an individual's nationality is verified before an offer of employment is made. Civil Service rules enable EEA nationals and certain non-EEA family members to be employed as Civil Servants. The Ministry of Justice does not hold central data in respect of the number of EU foreign nationals employed and they could be collected only at disproportionate costs.

There is also a provision that, in exceptional circumstances, foreign nationals, other than EEA nationals and certain non-EEA family members, may be employed by means of an aliens' certificate under the Aliens' Employment Act 1955. This Act empowers the employing Department's Minister, with the approval of the Minister for the Civil Service, to issue a certificate of employment in certain circumstances. Information on the number of staff employed under the Alien's Employment Act 1955 is collected. The Prison Service currently employs one person under the Act and approved by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, with the consent of the Minister for the Civil Service.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest; and if he will make a statement. [164159]

**Maria Eagle:** Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the model contract for special advisers. Copies of the model contract are available in the Libraries of the House. Neither of the Ministry of Justice's special advisers have declared any conflicts of interest to the Ministry since their appointment but they are aware of the need to declare any future conflicts that may arise in the course of their work.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164931]

**Maria Eagle:** The Ministry of Justice employs two special advisers. Details of their remuneration were published on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 148-50WS. They are supported by two full-time equivalent support staff. Given this small number of staff, providing cost information could identify an individual's salary, which is confidential between the individual and the employer. Office costs will be accounted for in the 2007-08 departmental annual report and accounts.

### Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in his Department and its predecessors earned over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167196]

**Maria Eagle:** All those employees earning base salaries of more than £100,000 per year are members of the senior civil service. The senior civil service reward framework is designed by Cabinet Office and common

to all departments. The pay of all members of the MOJ SCS is within the SCS pay ranges set by Cabinet Office.

Information relating to employees of the magistrates' courts committees prior to the creation of Her Majesty's Court Service in 2005 is not available, therefore the information provided relates to 2004-05 onwards.

| | *Number earning £100,000 or more* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 21 |
| 2005-06 | 20 |
| 2006-07 | 20 |

**Departmental Secondment**

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167242]

**Maria Eagle:** There is currently no requirement for Departments to hold details of secondment information centrally; information on secondments out of the Department or the destination and cost of the secondments is not held on the Ministry of Justice's internal HR system and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. However information on secondees into the Department and those who entered the Department on loan from other Government Departments is recorded on the Ministry of Justice's internal HR Oracle system and is detailed in the following table.

*Inwards secondments (headcount) MOJ (former DCA including only DCA HQ, HMCS, tribunals, OPG, Scotland and Wales Office)*

| | *Secondment headcount* | *Loan headcount* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998 | 0 | 4 |
| 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999 | 0 | 26 |
| 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2000 | 6 | 18 |
| 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001 | 0 | 7 |
| 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002 | 1 | 18 |
| 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003 | 1 | 13 |
| 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 | 0 | 17 |
| 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 | 1 | 26 |
| 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2006 | 0 | 6 |
| 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007 | 0 | 12 |

**Health Insurance**

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167928]

**Maria Eagle:** My Department and its agencies do not have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. 74 officials employed in Her Majesty's Courts Service, one of the Ministry's Executive Agencies, do however retain an entitlement to private health insurance following the unification of the former DCA with the Magistrates' Courts Service on 1 April 2005, and the transfer of former Magistrates' Courts Committee (MCC) employees to the Department on TUPE terms. Of these, 53 officials currently retain an entitlement to private health insurance provided by AXA-PPP Healthcare, six retain an entitlement to annual health screening provided by Nuffield Proactive Health and 15 retain an entitlement to paid membership of a healthcare cash plan provided by Westfield Health. All these schemes were closed to new members on 1 April 2005.

The Ministry has recently offered new terms and conditions to former DCA staff, including former MCC employees. Some legacy allowances that were not part of the new deal, including private health insurance entitlements, will be reviewed with the trade unions through the collective bargaining framework by the end of the current financial year. Any changes will be applied to all affected staff.

**Housing: Peterborough**

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of homes in the Peterborough city council area according to Land Registry data were worth *(a)* £400,000 or more, *(b)* £500,000 or more, *(c)* £600,000 or more, *(d)* £800,000 or more and *(e)* £1,000,000 or more in each year since 1997. [168766]

**Mr. Wills:** Land Registry is able to provide information on the number of properties sold for which prices of £400,000 or more, £500,000 or more, £600,000 or more, £800,000 or more and £1,000,000 or more have been paid. As these figures are extracted using price paid data, no information is available for any properties which have not been sold. This question has been answered on the basis of recorded sales figures in Peterborough within the requested price sectors. These sector-specific sales figures have then been calculated as a percentage of total annual sales in Peterborough from 1997 to 2006.

The figures are reflected in the following table.

*Land Registry price reports for Peterborough 1997 to 2006*

| | *Total sales* | *Sales £400,000 to £500,000 and percentage of total* | *Sales £500,000 to £600,000 and percentage of total* | *Sales £600,000 to £800,000 and percentage of total* | *Sales £800,000 to £1 million and percentage of total* | *Sales £1 million plus and percentage of total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 3497 | 1 = 0.03 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998 | 2913 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1999 | 4226 | 1 - 0.02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2000 | 4047 | 9 = 0.2 | 0 | 1= 0.02 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001 | 4914 | 5 = 0.1 | 0 | 1 = 0.02 | 0 | 0 |
| 2002 | 5272 | 11=0.2 | 3 = 0.06 | 1 = 0.02 | 0 | 0 |

*Land Registry price reports for Peterborough 1997 to 2006*

| | *Total sales* | *Sales £400,000 to £500,000 and percentage of total* | *Sales £500,000 to £600,000 and percentage of total* | *Sales £600,000 to £800,000 and percentage of total* | *Sales £800,000 to £1 million and percentage of total* | *Sales £1 million plus and percentage of total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 4651 | 15 = 0.3 | 1 = 0.02 | 3 = 0.06 | 1 = 0.02 | 0 |
| 2004 | 4970 | 24 = 0.5 | 3 = 0.06 | 1 = 0.02 | 1 = 0.02 | 1 = 0.02 |
| 2005 | 3963 | 22 = 0.5 | 7 = 0.2 | 2 = 0.05 | 4 = 0.1 | 2 = 0.05 |
| 2006 | 5155 | 49 = 0.9 | 15 = 0.3 | 7 = 0.1 | 4 = 0.08 | 1 = 0.02 |

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## National Security

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, when he expects the specialist unit in the Prisons Service tasked with preventing extremists using prison networks to plot future activities announced by the Prime Minister to be set up; what he expects its costs to be; and how he plans to measure the effectiveness of the unit. [168452]

**Maria Eagle:** HM Prison Service's Extremism Unit was established in March 2007, and is co-ordinating a programme of work to address the risks posed by extremists in prison. The programme includes awareness raising and training for staff, support for Muslim Chaplains, collection and analysis of information, and strategy and policy development. The Unit's costs for the current financial year are expected to be in the order of £350,000. The programme of work co-ordinated by the unit is linked to the CONTEST strategy and is reviewed by Ministers on a regular basis.

## Police Custody: Wales

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on how many days police custody suites in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Dyfed-Powys police area and *(c)* Pembrokeshire have been used to accommodate prisoners in 2007; [166247]

(2) how many prisoners have been accommodated in police custody suites in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Dyfed-Powys police area and *(c)* Pembrokeshire in 2007; [166248]

(3) how many cells in police custody units in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Dyfed-Powys police area and *(c)* Pembrokeshire are reserved for prisoners. [166246][1]

**Mr. Hanson:** The number of places provided by police forces for Operation Safeguard use may vary according to operational pressures. On 16 November 2007 there were 38 places available for Operation Safeguard use in Wales. No places were available in Dyfed Powys police force area or in Pembrokeshire.

The following table shows the number of nights between 22 January and 20 November 2007 that police cells were used in Wales, by Dyfed Powys police force and in Pembrokeshire for Operation Safeguard, and the number of occasions prisoners were held; one occasion means one prisoner night in a police cell.

| | *Nights* | *Occasions* |
|---|---|---|
| Wales | 231 | 4,182 |
| Dyfed Powys | 125 | 615 |
| Pembrokeshire | 80 | 332 |

## Prison Places

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 16 April 2007 to the hon. Member for Sunderland South, *Official Report*, column 480W, on prison places, what the average capital cost was of providing each place in the prisons built in each year since 1997, including all land acquisition, construction, legal and conveyancing costs and other associated costs. [168494]

**Mr. Hanson:** All prisons constructed since 1997 and run by the private sector have been procured under PFI. The following table provides the net present value figure at the time of the contact award. This figure includes construction, legal, conveyancing and other costs associated with the contract. Land acquisition costs paid by the authority are deemed commercial in confidence and therefore are not able to be disclosed.

| *Prison* | *Contract award* | *Price NPV (£ million)*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| Ashfield | 1 July 1998 | 121 |
| Forest Bank | 6 July 1998 | 197 |
| Dovegate | 27 September 1999 | 240 |
| Rye Hill | 23 July 1999 | 154 |
| Bronzefield | 20 December 2002 | 219 |
| Peterborough | 14 February 2003 | 291 |

[1] Costs correct at time of award for the life of the contract

## Prison Service: Pay

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many area managers in HM Prison Service received bonuses at the end of the 2005-06 financial year; and if he will make a statement. [168183]

**Maria Eagle:** Records on the personnel corporate database indicate that no special bonuses were awarded to area managers in HM Prison Service at the end of the 2005-06 financial year. However, performance bonuses form part of normal pay arrangements for all senior civil servants and area managers can receive bonuses as part of these arrangements.

1. *[Official Report, 20 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 7MC.]*

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the previous area manager for London received a bonus on retirement from HM Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [168184]

**Maria Eagle:** Records on the personnel corporate database indicate that the previous area manager for London did not receive a bonus on his retirement.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of the HM Prison Service management board received bonuses at the end of the *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 financial year; and if he will make a statement. [168185]

**Maria Eagle:** Records on the Personnel Corporate Database indicate that the following special bonuses were awarded to the HM Prison Service management board:

*(a)* 2005-06: one bonus awarded

*(b)* 2006-07: Nil.

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many area managers in HM Prison Service received a bonus at the end of the 2006-07 financial year; and if he will make a statement. [168186]

**Maria Eagle:** Records on the personnel corporate database indicate that no bonuses were awarded to area managers in HM Prison Service at the end of the 2006-07 financial year. However, performance bonuses form part of normal pay arrangements for all Senior Civil Servants and Area Managers can receive bonuses as part of these arrangements.

### Prison Service: Unfair Dismissal

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his answer of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 875W, on prison service: unfair dismissal, for what reason this information is not collected in this form by the Treasury Solicitor; and if he will make a statement. [168542]

**The Solicitor-General:** I have been asked to reply.

Compensation and associated legal costs are met by the client department out of its appropriation, not by the Treasury Solicitor. There has thus been no operational reason coming from within his own Department for the Treasury Solicitor to collate and monitor these payments. As there has been no call from client departments to produce figures, the Treasury Solicitor has not been able to justify the commitment of public funds to that end. For this reason, the figures requested are not held by the Treasury Solicitor's Department in the form requested and to attempt to gather them now could be done only at disproportionate cost.

### Prisoners: Police Cells

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Prison Service has paid Suffolk police authority for use of its police cells in each of the last five years. [167906]

**Mr. Hanson:** Police forces involved in Operation Safeguard charge NOMS in arrears for the cost of making police cells available to accommodate prisoners.

To date in 2007 NOMS has paid Suffolk police force £366,964 for Operation Safeguard usage in 2006 and 2007.

Prisoners are also sometimes held in police cells as "lockouts". A lockout is an emergency measure used to hold prisoners overnight and is only used, for example, when the designated prison's reception will be closed before their arrival time.

£1,847 was paid to Suffolk police in 2006-07 for lockout usage and £1,155 has been paid to date in 2007-08. Information on the amount paid in the three years previous to 2006-07 is not available. As police forces submit invoices in arrears, payments do not necessarily relate to the years in which the lockouts took place.

### Prisoners: Special Educational Needs

**Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people with learning disabilities were detained in UK *(a)* prisons and *(b)* youth offender institutions in the latest period for which figures are available. [168930]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In 1997, the Office for National Statistics undertook a survey of mental ill health in the prison population of England and Wales. This found that a higher proportion of prisoners had lower intellectual functioning scores than would be expected in the general population.

Further information is available in the report of this survey: "Psychiatric Morbidity Amongst Prisoners in England and Wales" (1998), a copy of which is available in the Library.

### Prisoners: Transport

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost was of transporting *(a)* prisoners on remand to court and *(b)* sentenced prisoners from court to prison in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [168500]

**Mr. Hanson:** This information is not available before the start of the current contracts for the escort of prisoners to and from courts in August 2004. There is no requirement for contractors to separate the costs of escorting remand and sentenced prisoners. This information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost, as it would involve analysing the individual records of all prisoner movements.

### Prisoners: Video Games

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures apply to access by prisoners to computer *(a)* games and *(b)* consoles (i) individually and (ii) communally. [168200]

**Mr. Hanson:** Computer games and consoles for prisoners are used as part of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme, in recognition of good behaviour. All games and consoles must be approved by the prison. Prisoners are not permitted access to games with extreme violent, racist or sexually inappropriate themes or to consoles which can connect to the internet.

## Prisons

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how many of the additional 1,500 prison places announced on 19th June 2007 funding has been secured; and where these funded places will be. [168498]

**Mr. Hanson:** Funding has been confirmed for the first 500 of the additional 1,500 places announced in June this year. These places will be provided in existing adult male prisons. The current locations are:

Erlestoke, Wiltshire
Ranby, Nottinghamshire
Blundeston, Suffolk
Kirklevington Grange, Cleveland
Isle of Wight
Wymott, Lancashire
Ashwell, Rutland
Highpoint, Suffolk

Decisions on the remaining 1,000 places will be made after Lord Carter has completed his review on the supply and demand of prison places.

## Prisons: Drugs

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research he has commissioned into the effectiveness of mandatory drug testing of all prisoners upon entry to custody; and what his policy is on the compatibility of such testing with human rights legislation. [168496]

**Maria Eagle:** Research on the overall impact and effectiveness of mandatory drug testing (MDT) in prisons has been carried out by the Office for National Statistics and Institute of Psychiatry (2005). There are two types of MDT—random and targeted (on reception, frequent programme, risk assessment and suspicion). The research concluded that random MDT provides a good measure of drug misuse in prisons over time. It also suggested that more reception MDT on entry to the prison system might be a better way of detecting and directing users into treatment.

Prisons have discretion to use reception MDT for one of two reasons—to assess the drug misuse problem (and identify need) coming in from both new receptions and prison transfers or to send out a clear message that drug misuse will not be tolerated. So far in 2007-08, 66 prisons have undertaken a degree of reception MDT. However, all local prisons undertake clinical health assessments on reception and indicative drug testing plays an important part in that process. Those declaring a drug problem at the point of their reception may be asked to provide a sample for a drug screen. The result of this clinical drug test is available immediately and is used as part of a clinical substance misuse assessment, prior to the commencement of any prescribed treatment for the management of drug misuse. Not everyone with a drug problem will test positive for drugs on reception into prison. A full clinical assessment therefore is much more effective and immediate in identifying drug treatment need than on-reception MDT.

MDT is a proportionate response to the threat posed by drugs within prisons and hence compatible with human rights legislation. The particular problems arising from misuse of drugs within prisons include disorder and violence, risks to health, and the intimidation and bullying of prisoners and their families to supply drugs. This undermines the rights and freedoms of those prisoners who wish to stay away from drugs. The National Offender Management Service has a duty of care to those held in custody. The extent of MDT undertaken within a prison must be maintained at a level proportionate to the problem experienced with drugs. Prisoners must not be subjected needlessly to drug tests. MDT is compatible with the Human Rights Act as long as it is proportionate and carried out in accordance with the policy and procedures laid down in Prison Service Order 3601. Despite some attempts by prisoners to challenge MDT at the European Court of Human Rights, none has progressed beyond the admissibility stage.

## Prisons: Interpreters

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent in each prison on translation and interpretation services in the last year for which figures are available in the prison estate; and if he will make a statement. [168948]

**Maria Eagle:** This information is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost as it would involve collating the data from 142 prisons individually. Each of the 142 prisons would have to analyse the cost of interpreters or translators which is not kept in a discrete accounting code. Serving prisoners may also volunteer to act as interpreters or translators.

## Prosecutions: Crack

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* sentenced for offences relating to the dealing of crack cocaine in each of the last 10 years in (i) England, (ii) the north-east and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [166599]

**Maria Eagle:** Data showing the number of defendants prosecuted and sentenced for offences relating to the dealing of cocaine in England, the north-east and Cleveland police force area from 1996 to 2005 are shown in the following table. My Department are not able to provide data for the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency as the data are not held at the required level. Data for 2006 will be available shortly.

*Number of defendants proceeded against and sentenced to selected offences relating to cocaine, in England, the North East and Cleveland police force area, 1996 to 2005*[1,2,3,4,5]

| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *England* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proceeded against | 568 | 717 | 805 | 965 | 1,027 | 1,357 | 1,482 | 1,584 | 1,579 | 1,823 |
| Sentenced | 351 | 404 | 516 | 627 | 573 | 701 | 868 | 1,097 | 1,197 | 1,323 |
| *North-east region* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proceeded against | 23 | 27 | 19 | 69 | 51 | 57 | 81 | 73 | 69 | 100 |
| Sentenced | 10 | 11 | 17 | 27 | 36 | 33 | 45 | 66 | 66 | 78 |
| *Cleveland police force area* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proceeded against | 11 | 6 | 6 | 34 | 33 | 35 | 60 | 36 | 19 | 35 |
| Sentenced | 2 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 10 | 19 | 16 | 38 | 28 | 36 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The sentenced column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty and committed for sentence at the crown court may be sentenced in the following year.
[4] The following offences have been used in the table:
(a) Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): Cocaine. (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 4(3) [Class 'A1 Drug].
(b) Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply:-Cocaine. (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(3) [Class 'A1 Drug].
[5] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

## Protests: Stoke Heath Young Offender Institution

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many roof top protests there were at Her Majesty's Young Offender Institution Stoke Heath in each month in the last five years. [168552]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table lists the number of incidents at height reported, on the incident reporting system (IRS), at HMYOI Stoke Heath in each of the last five years. For the purposes of the collection of data, an incident at height includes not only climbing on to roofs but also climbing on to or up other areas, both internally and externally.

*Incidents at Height HMYOI Stoke Heath*

| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| May | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| June | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| July | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| August | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| September | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| October | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| November | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| December | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| January | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| February | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| March | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 |

## Residence Orders

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many residence orders were made in respect of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in 2006. [168182]

**Maria Eagle:** 33,000 residence orders were given in 2006. Data to enable this figure to be separated between those granted to men and those granted to women is not recorded centrally.

Information to enable the gender of the successful party to be identified can be gathered only by reviewing court files or, for the county courts by reviewing the text of every individual order made and recorded on the court's IT system. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

## Road Traffic Offences: Fixed Penalties

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of (a) fixed penalty notices and (b) penalty charge notices for motoring offences were paid in full within the 28 day deadline in each year since 1999. [168610]

**Maria Eagle:** Available information from 1999 to 2005 (the latest available) is provided in the following tables. 2006 data will be available next year.

Information contained in Table A relates to the number of motoring offences fixed penalty notices issued by result. Data are collected on the disposal (i.e. paid, fine registration certificate issued etc).

Data within Table B relates to penalty charge notices issued by result under the decriminalised parking enforcement scheme.

*Table A: Number and percentage of fixed penalty notices issued for motoring offences by result[1], England and Wales, 1999 to 2005*

*Number (thousand) and percentage*

| | | Total notices dealt with | Paid within 28 days | Payment accepted after 28 days | Sub-total paid | No further action taken | Fine registration certificate issued[2] | Referred for court proceedings |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999[3] | Number | 3,089,000 | 1,730,700 | 696,300 | 2,427,000 | 235,500 | 406,900 | 19,600 |
| | Percentage | 100 | 56 | 23 | 79 | 8 | 13 | 0.6 |

*Table A: Number and percentage of fixed penalty notices issued for motoring offences by result[1], England and Wales, 1999 to 2005*

*Number (thousand) and percentage*

| | | Total notices dealt with | Paid within 28 days | Payment accepted after 28 days | Sub-total paid | No further action taken | Fine registration certificate issued[2] | Referred for court proceedings |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000[3] | Number | 2,984,300 | 1,718,600 | 672,000 | 2,390,600 | 208,000 | 370,800 | 14,900 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *58* | *23* | *80* | *7* | *12* | *0.5* |
| 2001[3] | Number | 2,897,200 | 1,692,500 | 673,400 | 2,365,800 | 147,600 | 369,300 | 14,500 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *58* | *23* | *82* | *5* | *13* | *0.5* |
| 2002 | Number | 2,865,800 | 1,833,300 | 582,300 | 2,415,600 | 115,800 | 322,000 | 12,500 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *64* | *20* | *85* | *4* | *11* | *0.4* |
| 2003 | Number | 3,506,000 | 2,335,700 | 714,900 | 3,050,600 | 98,300 | 345,700 | 11,400 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *67* | *20* | *87* | *3* | *10* | *0.3* |
| 2004 | Number | 3,377,100 | 2,303,400 | 665,500 | 2,968,900 | 95,000 | 301,000 | 12,200 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *68* | *20* | *88* | *3* | 9 | *0.4* |
| *2005[4]* | *Percentage* | *100* | *72* | *18* | *90* | *2* | *7* | *0.7* |

[1] Endorsable and non-endorsable notices combined.
[2] Includes outcomes not finalised.
[3] Revised since original publication following amendments received from Essex police force area.
[4] The analysis of results of fixed penalty notices paid is not yet complete for 2005. The national percentages shown are estimates.
*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Table B: Number and percentage of penalty charge notices by result, England and Wales[1], 1999 to 2005*

*Number (thousand) and percentage*

| | | Total notices[2] dealt with | Paid within 14 days | Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate | Paid after charge certificate served | Sub total paid | Cases going for adjudication | Number of certificates registered | No further[3] action taken |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | Number | 3,327,700 | 1,575,200 | 421,800 | 9,600 | 2,006,600 | 40,400 | 563,600 | 717,100 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *47* | *13* | *0.3* | *60* | *1* | *17* | *22* |
| 2000 | Number | 3,512,900 | 1,753,200 | 446,300 | 26,800 | 2,226,200 | 35,200 | 617,800 | 633,500 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *50* | *13* | *1* | *63* | *1* | *18* | *18* |
| 2001 | Number | 4,844,200 | 2,386,200 | 579,200 | 130,100 | 3,095,600 | 34,900 | 938,700 | 775,000 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *49* | *12* | *3* | *64* | *1* | *19* | *16* |
| 2002 | Number | 6,296,300 | 2,792,800 | 731,500 | 180,700 | 3,705,000 | 69,200 | 1,213,400 | 1,308,700 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *44* | *12* | *3* | *59* | *1* | *19* | *21* |
| 2003 | Number | 6,745,500 | 3,255,800 | 820,900 | 220,200 | 4,296,900 | 53,300 | 1,033,800 | 1,361,500 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *48* | *12* | *3* | *64* | *1* | *15* | *20* |
| 2004 | Number | 7,340,800 | 3,676,300 | 1,086,900 | 195,200 | 4,958,300 | 64,500 | 1,048,300 | 1,269,700 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *50* | *15* | *3* | *68* | *1* | *14* | *17* |
| 2005 | Number | 6,967,600 | 3,717,500 | 823,000 | 265,100 | 4,805,700 | 53,300 | 1,027,800 | 1,080,700 |
| | *Percentage* | *100* | *53* | *12* | *4* | *69* | *1* | *15* | *16* |

[1] The first Welsh local authority joined the decriminalised parking scheme in 2004.
[2] Each yearly figure excludes notices issued during the period that were still being processed and includes notices issued in a previous period but recorded as payment in a later year.
[3] Where the PCN is written off, for example, the motorist cannot be traced or the PCN is cancelled due to procedural error or successful representation.
*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by local authorities. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

## Truancy: Fines

**John Penrose:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will make an assessment of the likely effect on numbers of prison places of any custodial sentences handed out to 17 year olds who have not paid fines for truanting in the first year following implementation of such a policy; [163650]

(2) if he will estimate the likely number of custodial sentences which will be handed out to 17 year olds who have not paid fines for truanting in the first year following implementation of such a policy. [163652]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

None. The main enforcement system is not a criminal one and in practice a custodial sentence for non-participation is not a realistic prospect.

## Young Offender Institutions: Fires

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fires were started by prisoners at each young offender institution in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [168550]

**Maria Eagle:** The following table lists the total number of 'fire incidents' reported in the incident report system at young offender institutions in England and Wales in each of the last five years. Fire incidents may be actual fires but could, for example, include mischievous activation of fire alarms. To ascertain whether the incident was an actual fire would require the analysis of each incident report, which could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The data is held in financial years.

*Fire incidents at young offender institutions*

| *Establishment* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ashfield | 31 | 22 | 18 | 7 | 2 | 80 |
| Brinsford | 7 | 4 | 5 | 21 | 10 | 47 |
| Castington | 24 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 67 |
| Cookham Wood | 1 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 14 |
| Downview | 2 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 21 |
| Eastwood Park | 9 | 8 | 17 | 27 | 13 | 74 |
| Feltham | 17 | 23 | 60 | 43 | 44 | 189 |
| Foston Hall | 20 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 40 |
| Hindley | 12 | 23 | 5 | 32 | 38 | 110 |
| Huntercombe | 7 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 32 |
| Lancaster Farms | 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 25 | 46 |
| Newhall | 6 | 20 | 17 | 2 | 4 | 49 |
| Parc | 24 | 43 | 13 | 11 | 10 | 101 |
| Stokeheath | 9 | 4 | 10 | 19 | 27 | 69 |
| Thorncross | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| Warren Hill | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 11 |
| Werrington | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 10 |
| Wetherby | 9 | 14 | 24 | 8 | 4 | 59 |
| Glen Parva | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 26 |
| Onley | 4 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 36 |
| Rochester | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 15 |
| Deerbolt | 6 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 35 |
| Reading | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 17 |
| Aylesbury | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 31 |
| Portland | 4 | 5 | 17 | 11 | 4 | 41 |
| Swinfen Hall | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| Northallerton | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 10 |
| Total | 216 | 245 | 259 | 258 | 271 | 1,249 |

## Young Offender Institutions: Injuries

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many injuries there were to staff at each young offender institution in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [168553]

**Mr. Hanson:** Between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2007 12,967 injuries to staff and prisoners were recorded in young offender institutions.

## Young Offender Institutions: Violence

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisoner on prisoner assaults, *(b)* riots and *(c)* assaults on staff there were at each young offender institution in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [168551]

**Mr. Hanson:** The response to part *(a)* of the question is provided in the following table which refers to the number of individual assault incidents:

| *YOI* | *Type* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ashfield | Prisoner on Prisoner | 429 | 271 | 304 | 500 | 625 |
| Aylesbury | Prisoner on Prisoner | 44 | 26 | 21 | 78 | 80 |

| YOI | Type | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brinsford | Prisoner on Prisoner | 281 | 304 | 326 | 344 | 187 |
| Castington | Prisoner on Prisoner | 363 | 312 | 384 | 361 | 360 |
| Deerbolt | Prisoner on Prisoner | 154 | 167 | 205 | 164 | 152 |
| Feltham | Prisoner on Prisoner | 459 | 569 | 576 | 549 | 476 |
| Glen Parva | Prisoner on Prisoner | 222 | 241 | 230 | 269 | 341 |
| Hindley | Prisoner on Prisoner | 88 | 177 | 63 | 112 | 348 |
| Huntercombe | Prisoner on Prisoner | 44 | 77 | 79 | 95 | 184 |
| Lancaster Farms | Prisoner on Prisoner | 130 | 17 | 185 | 435 | 363 |
| Northallerton | Prisoner on Prisoner | 80 | 82 | 84 | 104 | 82 |
| Onley[1] | Prisoner on Prisoner | 516 | 509 | 161 | 152 | 153 |
| Portland | Prisoner on Prisoner | 71 | 61 | 125 | 154 | 127 |
| Reading | Prisoner on Prisoner | 7 | 23 | 25 | 76 | 57 |
| Rochester | Prisoner on Prisoner | 32 | 51 | 102 | 78 | 100 |
| Stoke Heath | Prisoner on Prisoner | 241 | 137 | 239 | 438 | 506 |
| Swinfen Hall[1] | Prisoner on Prisoner | 127 | 110 | 96 | 104 | 89 |
| Thorn Cross | Prisoner on Prisoner | 56 | 39 | 7 | 19 | 143 |
| Warren Hill | Prisoner on Prisoner | — | 93 | 162 | 256 | 268 |
| Werrington | Prisoner on Prisoner | 114 | 129 | 104 | 139 | 143 |
| Wetherby | Prisoner on Prisoner | 41 | 175 | 414 | 492 | 403 |

[1] In 2004 Onley and Swinfen Hall were re-rolled to also hold adults. The change in population may be expected to be reflected in the number of assaults.

In respect of part *(b)* of the question the term 'riot' is not employed in the recording of incidents. The recording of 'acts of concerted indiscipline' is undertaken and applied to an incident where two or more prisoners act together in defiance of a lawful instruction or against the requirements of the regime including passive acts. The following table provides this information in financial years.

| YOI | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ashfield | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Aylesbury | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Brinsford | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Castington | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Deerbolt | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Feltham | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 7 |
| Glen Parva | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hindley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Huntercombe | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Lancaster Farms | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| Northallerton | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| Onley[1] | 0 | 1 | 0 | — | — |
| Portland | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Reading | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rochester | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Stoke Heath | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Swinfen Hall[1] | 0 | 0 | 0 | — | — |
| Thorn Cross | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Warren Hill | — | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Werrington | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Wetherby | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

[1] In 2004 Onley and Swinfen Hall were re-rolled to also hold adults. The change in population may be expected to be reflected in the number of assaults.

The information requested in part (c) of the question is provided in the following table.

This table refers to prisoner on officer and prisoner on other (a smaller category which may also include assaults on visitors as well as other staff).

| YOI | Assault type | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ashfield | Prisoner on Staff | 131 | 70 | 90 | 180 | 136 |
| Aylesbury | Prisoner on Staff | 12 | 15 | 6 | 17 | 18 |
| Brinsford | Prisoner on Staff | 32 | 39 | 34 | 19 | 10 |
| Castington | Prisoner on Staff | 59 | 56 | 57 | 50 | 46 |
| Deerbolt | Prisoner on Staff | 11 | 6 | 28 | 33 | 22 |
| Feltham | Prisoner on Staff | 84 | 103 | 173 | 138 | 118 |
| Glen Parva | Prisoner on Staff | 43 | 29 | 39 | 31 | 45 |
| Hindley | Prisoner on Staff | 33 | 27 | 14 | 32 | 58 |
| Huntercombe | Prisoner on Staff | 15 | 19 | 15 | 15 | 33 |
| Lancaster Farms | Prisoner on Staff | 21 | 9 | 28 | 47 | 56 |
| Northallerton | Prisoner on Staff | 10 | 19 | 22 | 14 | 9 |
| Onley[1] | Prisoner on Staff | 75 | 98 | 15 | 29 | 32 |
| Portland | Prisoner on Staff | 25 | 16 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| Reading | Prisoner on Staff | 6 | 7 | 16 | 16 | 12 |
| Rochester | Prisoner on Staff | 5 | 16 | 18 | 23 | 13 |
| Stoke Heath | Prisoner on Staff | 51 | 20 | 39 | 56 | 69 |
| Swinfen Hall[1] | Prisoner on Staff | 8 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 10 |
| Thorn Cross | Prisoner on Staff | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 |

| YOI | Assault type | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Warren Hill | Prisoner on Staff | — | 12 | 21 | 34 | 42 |
| Werrington | Prisoner on Staff | 5 | 24 | 19 | 19 | 23 |
| Wetherby | Prisoner on Staff | 9 | 14 | 77 | 77 | 60 |

[1] In 2004 Onley and Swinfen Hall were re-rolled to also hold adults. The change in population may be expected to be reflected in the number of assaults.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Crime of Aggression Special Working Group

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what policy priorities are being pursued by the Government's representative on the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression of the International Criminal Court. [168367]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The UK participates actively in the Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression. The Government expect discussions to continue ahead of a Review Conference in 2010, where any proposal to amend the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court would be discussed.

The Government's view is that any proposal must command the widest possible acceptance and must reflect the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security as enshrined in the UN charter.

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167241]

**Meg Munn:** 63 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff are currently on outward loan to other Government Departments and 69 FCO staff are seconded to other organisations or the private sector. 238 staff are on inward loan from other Government Departments and three staff are on secondment from other organisations.

The average length of each interchange loan or secondment is two to three years. The cost of each interchange loan is borne by each staff member's parent Department. Outward loans to other Government Departments incur negligible additional costs as staff transfer on level salary terms. The FCO normally pays up to 20 per cent. additional salary costs for staff on outward secondment.

Complete figures on the numbers of interchanges and secondments from 1997 to 2006 were not collated and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

### Immigrants: Criminal Records

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criminal records checks are made on non-UK citizens seeking to enter the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [168809]

**Dr. Howells:** All persons applying for visas and those arriving into the UK are checked against a database. Further checks may also be carried out in accordance with selective criteria both overseas (where the person has applied for a visa) and at the point of entry into the UK.

### Pakistan: Politics and Government

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of recent events in Pakistan; and what steps are being considered by his Department to encourage the release of political prisoners. [166367]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Barnsley, Central (Mr. Illsley) on 20 November, *Official Report*, column 1092.

Through our high commission in Islamabad we are continuing urgently to seek access to political activists and members of civil society who have been detained, and to press for their release. We welcome the release of many of those who have been held under the state of emergency: this is a step in the right direction, but we continue to urge the Government of Pakistan to release all political prisoners as soon as possible.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Leader of the House (1) if she will undertake a review of her Office's compliance with data protection laws; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the last such review; [168234]

(2) how many employees of each grade in her Office *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of her Office's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of her Office has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of her Office for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases was; [168280]

(3) how many occasions in her Office confidential data have been downloaded onto compact discs *(a)* without and *(b)* with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures are in place for the (i) transport, (ii) exchange and (iii) delivery of

confidential or sensitive data; what records are held by her Office of information being sent outside the Office; on how many occasions her Office's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; and what procedures her Office has in place on downloading confidential data onto computer disk before transfer. [168331]

**Helen Goodman:** I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by her Department. [168102]

**Helen Goodman:** All staff in the Leader's Office are British passport holders.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Apprentices: Bexley

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships were created in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last three years. [168648]

**Mr. Lammy:** Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) individualised learner record (ILR). The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts from August to July in each year in East London local LSC area. (These figures are not readily available at local authority level.)

*Thousands*

| | *Advanced Apprenticeships* | *Apprenticeships* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004/05 | 0.7 | 2.2 |
| 2005/06 | 0.6 | 1.9 |
| 2006/07 | 0.5 | 1.6 |

### Apprentices: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships were created in each London borough in each of the last three years. [169570]

**Mr. Lammy:** Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts from August to July in each year in local LSC areas. (These figures are not readily available at local authority level.)

*Thousands*

| *LSC local area* | *2004/05 Advanced Apprenticeship* | *Apprenticeship* | *2005/06 Advanced Apprenticeship* | *Apprenticeship* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Derbyshire | 0.9 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 2.2 |
| Leicestershire | 0.6 | 1.9 | 0.6 | 1.7 |
| Lincolnshire and Rutland | 0.5 | 1.6 | 0.6 | 1.3 |
| Northamptonshire | 0.5 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 1.7 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1.1 | 3.2 | 1.2 | 3.1 |
| Bedfordshire and Luton | 0.2 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0.7 | 1.6 | 0.5 | 1.3 |
| Essex | 0.7 | 3.1 | 0.7 | 2.9 |
| Hertfordshire | 0.5 | 1.6 | 0.7 | 1.5 |
| Norfolk | 0.4 | 1.9 | 0.4 | 1.4 |
| Suffolk | 0.5 | 1.7 | 0.6 | 1.7 |
| London Central | 0.6 | 2.1 | 0.5 | 1.9 |
| London East | 0.7 | 2.2 | 0.6 | 1.9 |
| London North | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| London South | 0.7 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 1.5 |
| London West | 0.3 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.9 |
| County Durham | 0.4 | 1.6 | 0.5 | 1.5 |
| Northumberland | 0.2 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| Tees Valley | 0.8 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 2.1 |
| Tyne and Wear | 1.3 | 3.4 | 1.6 | 3.6 |
| Cheshire and Warrington | 1.1 | 2.7 | 1.1 | 2.1 |
| Cumbria | 0.5 | 1.6 | 0.5 | 1.1 |
| Greater Manchester | 2.4 | 7.6 | 2.5 | 7.4 |
| Greater Merseyside | 1.9 | 6.0 | 1.9 | 4.7 |
| Lancashire | 1.6 | 4.1 | 1.4 | 3.2 |
| Berkshire | 0.9 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 2.2 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 1.1 | 3.4 | 1.6 | 3.2 |
| Kent and Medway | 0.8 | 2.7 | 0.7 | 2.3 |

Thousands

| LSC local area | 2004/05 Advanced Apprenticeship | Apprenticeship | 2005/06 Advanced Apprenticeship | Apprenticeship |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire | 1.1 | 2.6 | 1.1 | 2.2 |
| Surrey | 0.4 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1.2 |
| Sussex | 0.9 | 2.5 | 0.9 | 2.3 |
| Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole | 0.5 | 1.6 | 0.5 | 2.0 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1.5 | 4.6 | 1.5 | 4.0 |
| Gloucestershire | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.9 |
| Somerset | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1.0 |
| West of England | 0.9 | 1.5 | 0.9 | 1.5 |
| Wiltshire and Swindon | 0.3 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 1.3 |
| Birmingham and Solihull | 0.9 | 2.8 | 0.8 | 2.2 |
| Black Country | 1.0 | 3.6 | 1.0 | 3.4 |
| Coventry and Warwickshire | 0.8 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 1.9 |
| Hereford and Worcestershire | 0.7 | 1.6 | 0.7 | 1.5 |
| Shropshire | 0.4 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 10 |
| Staffordshire | 1.0 | 3.2 | 1.1 | 2.7 |
| Humberside | 0.8 | 2.3 | 0.8 | 2.3 |
| North Yorkshire | 0.6 | 2.0 | 0.6 | 1.7 |
| South Yorkshire | 0.8 | 3.8 | 1.1 | 3.9 |
| West Yorkshire | 1.8 | 5.0 | 1.8 | 4.2 |

Thousands

| LSC local area | 2006/07 Advanced Apprenticeship | Apprenticeship |
|---|---|---|
| Derbyshire | 0.9 | 2.0 |
| Leicestershire | 0.9 | 1.7 |
| Lincolnshire and Rutland | 0.7 | 1.4 |
| Northamptonshire | 0.6 | 1.5 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1.4 | 3.1 |
| Bedfordshire and Luton | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0.7 | 1.5 |
| Essex | 0.9 | 3.0 |
| Hertfordshire | 0.6 | 1.4 |
| Norfolk | 0.6 | 1.6 |
| Suffolk | 0.6 | 1.7 |
| London Central | 0.6 | 1.8 |
| London East | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| London North | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| London South | 0.9 | 1.5 |
| London West | 0.5 | 0.9 |
| County Durham | 0.6 | 1.4 |
| Northumberland | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| Tees Valley | 0.8 | 2.0 |
| Tyne and Wear | 1.5 | 3.0 |
| Cheshire and Warrington | 1.3 | 2.1 |
| Cumbria | 0.7 | 1.3 |
| Greater Manchester | 2.9 | 7.0 |
| Greater Merseyside | 2.1 | 5.4 |
| Lancashire | 1.9 | 3.9 |
| Berkshire | 1.5 | 2.9 |
| Hampshire and Isle of Wight | 1.8 | 4.4 |
| Kent and Medway | 0.9 | 2.7 |
| Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire | 1.3 | 1.7 |
| Surrey | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Sussex | 0.9 | 1.7 |

Thousands

| LSC local area | 2006/07 Advanced Apprenticeship | Apprenticeship |
|---|---|---|
| Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole | 0.6 | 1.6 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 1.8 | 4.1 |
| Gloucestershire | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| Somerset | 0.4 | 1.1 |
| West of England | 0.8 | 1.9 |
| Wiltshire and Swindon | 0.4 | 1.2 |
| Birmingham and Solihull | 1.0 | 2.4 |
| Black Country | 1.0 | 2.8 |
| Coventry and Warwickshire | 0.8 | 1.5 |
| Hereford and Worcestershire | 0.9 | 1.5 |
| Shropshire | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Staffordshire | 1.1 | 2.7 |
| Humberside | 1.0 | 2.1 |
| North Yorkshire | 0.7 | 1.6 |
| South Yorkshire | 1.0 | 3.3 |
| West Yorkshire | 2.2 | 4.4 |

## Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has for the BREW programme; and if he will make a statement. [166462]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

The Business Resource Efficiency and Resource (BREW) programme was set up to give £284 million additional landfill taxes back to business over three years (from April 2005 to March 2008) through funding for resource efficiency and waste projects.

Future funding of the BREW programme will be subject to future spending decisions which will be carefully balanced with other departmental priorities in tackling waste and climate change.

### Departmental Publicity

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167954]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes on 28 June. Since that date the Department has spent a total of £2,444,194 on advertising.

### Departmental Standards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164870]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department is planning to publish its Autumn Performance Report for 2007 before the house rises for the Christmas recess.

### Nanotechnology

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if his Department will assess the potential effect of nanotechnology on the high technology industry; and if his Department will fund *(a)* relevant skills training and *(b)* public engagement campaigns to support the development of nanotechnology. [167530]

**Ian Pearson:** We have recognised that nanotechnology underpins a number of key technology areas where the UK has a strong industrial base, including in the areas of advanced materials, bioscience and healthcare, electronics, and advanced manufacturing. The Technology Strategy Board is currently reviewing its strategies for these technology areas as well as for emerging technologies.

DTI funded two public engagement activities, Nanodialogues and the Nanotechnology Engagement Group (NEG), the final reports of which were launched in June 2007. The cross-Departmental Nanotechnology Research Coordination Group (NRCG) is evaluating the findings from that work to determine what further public engagement is needed.

DIUS and GO-Science are also taking forward the activities begun by the DTI to gain expert, stakeholder and public views on future scenarios for science and technology development, including elements related to nanotechnology. The results of this work are now being assessed with a view to prioritising areas for future public engagement work.

Additionally, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is implementing a programme in nanoscience through engineering to application, in order to build on the platform of earlier investments and to realise the benefits of the technology for society and the economy. The programme has identified doctoral training centres as a key way of enhancing the skills base in this area. EPSRC is also in the process of changing its collaborative training accounts into knowledge transfer accounts and it is possible that these will support training in the nanotechnology area aimed at users.

### Research: Finance

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much of the £1 billion announced on the publication of the Sainsbury Review to be spent on business, innovation and technology development is additional spending not previously announced. [166878]

**Ian Pearson:** The Technology Strategy Board will develop and lead a strategic programme worth £1 billion over the next three years (the upcoming CSR period), in partnership with the research councils and the regional development agencies (RDA). This includes £180 million which will be earmarked by the RDAs and £120 million by the research councils to spend jointly on activities with the TSB. The £1 billion is all new money not previously announced.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what public spending on research and development was *(a)* in real terms and *(b)* as a share of gross domestic product in each year since 1992, broken down by (i) region and (ii) county; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for the private sector over the same period. [167214]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* Gross expenditure on research and development data is only available at a national level. It is therefore not possible to produce real or percentage of GDP estimates by region split by private and public expenditure. Business expenditure as a percentage of GDP is, however, available at a regional level (but not at a county level). The following tables shows business expenditure on research and development by region (in real terms, 2006 prices).

*Business Enterprise research and expenditure by region*

*£ million in real terms (2006 prices)*

| | *United Kingdom* | *England* | *North East* | *North West* | *Yorkshire and the Humber* | *East Midlands* | *West Midlands* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1992 | 11,591 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1993 | 12,059 | 11,531 | 183 | 1,158 | 318 | 1,093 | 997 |
| 1994 | 12,050 | 11,405 | 382 | 1,552 | 349 | 811 | 833 |
| 1995 | 12,057 | 11,494 | 304 | 1,436 | 369 | 813 | 877 |
| 1996 | 11,895 | 11,267 | 242 | 1,494 | 356 | 908 | 804 |

*Business Enterprise research and expenditure by region*

*£ million in real terms (2006 prices)*

| | United Kingdom | England | North East | North West | Yorkshire and the Humber | East Midlands | West Midlands |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 11,879 | 11,276 | 201 | 1,438 | 317 | 880 | 804 |
| 1998 | 12,286 | 11,602 | 216 | 1,474 | 348 | 940 | 858 |
| 1999 | 13,432 | 12,606 | 195 | 1,754 | 367 | 996 | 860 |
| 2000 | 13,487 | 12,687 | 192 | 1,700 | 356 | 1,093 | 675 |
| 2001 | 13,707 | 12,755 | 136 | 1,778 | 341 | 1,024 | 841 |
| 2002 | 13,836 | 12,854 | 138 | 1,778 | 373 | 1,079 | 858 |
| 2003 | 13,671 | 12,774 | 164 | 1,666 | 372 | 936 | 872 |
| 2004 | 13,294 | 12,419 | 270 | 1,825 | 360 | 982 | 795 |
| 2005 | 13,681 | 12,699 | 297 | 1,945 | 354 | 1,029 | 739 |
| 2006 | 14,306 | 13,361 | 293 | 1,627 | 386 | 977 | 933 |

*£ million in real terms (2006 prices)*

| | Eastern England | London | South East | South West | Wales | Scotland | Northern Ireland |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1992 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1993 | 356 | 1,361 | 5,345 | 718 | 155 | 320 | 54 |
| 1994 | 635 | 721 | 5,136 | 988 | 157 | 409 | 79 |
| 1995 | 2,677 | 1,165 | 2,871 | 983 | 127 | 356 | 81 |
| 1996 | 2,723 | 934 | 2,894 | 912 | 138 | 386 | 105 |
| 1997 | 2,960 | 829 | 2,903 | 942 | 140 | 362 | 101 |
| 1998 | 2,870 | 780 | 3,027 | 1,089 | 152 | 434 | 98 |
| 1999 | 3,041 | 874 | 3,466 | 1,054 | 241 | 467 | 118 |
| 2000 | 3,232 | 949 | 3,473 | 1,016 | 169 | 469 | 163 |
| 2001 | 3,168 | 743 | 3,594 | 1,131 | 172 | 609 | 172 |
| 2002 | 2,941 | 940 | 3,467 | 1,284 | 206 | 610 | 165 |
| 2003 | 3,166 | 765 | 3,507 | 1,325 | 223 | 548 | 125 |
| 2004 | 2,804 | 781 | 3,242 | 1,360 | 237 | 517 | 122 |
| 2005 | 3,379 | 553 | 3,120 | 1,284 | 239 | 602 | 140 |
| 2006 | 3,570 | 980 | 3,279 | 1,316 | 222 | 579 | 145 |

*Source:*
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## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Animal Welfare: Fisheries

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislative provisions are in place governing the welfare of fish caught for human consumption. [168217]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There are no legislative provisions covering either recreational anglers or commercial fishing at sea.

The welfare of all farmed animals is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a duty of care to animals; anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to make sure the animal's welfare needs are met.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 set minimum standards for all farm animals, including farmed fish. These regulations replaced the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 on 1 October 2007. The new regulations are made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and are very similar to the previous regulations.

In addition to the general requirements of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007, we are working towards further improvements in fish welfare by other means.

The Council of Europe's Standing Committee on the welfare of animals kept for farming purposes adopted a recommendation on fish in December 2005. It is now working on species specific appendices.

DEFRA's research and development programme includes projects on certain aspects of fish welfare, and we will use the findings to support our objective to ensure high standards of fish welfare.

### Avian Influenza

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to be able to establish the cause of the recent H5N1 avian influenza outbreak in East Anglia. [167401]

**Jonathan Shaw:** A full epidemiological investigation is under way to consider the source of this outbreak, including tracings of any possible disease spread. At present, it is too early to draw any conclusions about the source of the outbreak, and all potential sources of infection are being investigated.

A preliminary epidemiological report is being prepared and will be published shortly.

### Avian Influenza: Disease Control

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of the recommendations contained in the Lessons Learned Report published following the outbreak of avian influenza last February have been implemented in full; and if he will make a statement. [165925]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The Lessons Learned report was published on 11 October and copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses. The recommendations in the report have all been accepted and have already been adopted in our response to the current foot and mouth disease, bluetongue and avian influenza outbreaks.

Further to the debate in the House on 13 November, the hon. Gentleman is being sent a full breakdown of our response to each recommendation. Copies of this letter will also be made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to make an assessment of the effectiveness of his Department's response to the *(a)* Essex A/H5N1 quarantine incident in 2005, *(b)* the Fife A/H5N1 incident in 2006, *(c)* the Norfolk A/H7N3 incident in 2006, *(d)* the Suffolk A/H5N1 incident in 2007, *(e)* the North Wales A/H7N2 incident in 2007 and *(f)* the Norfolk A/H5N1 incident in 2007. [166436]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA has robust and tested disease control plans and instructions in place to address an avian influenza outbreak. These are set out in our exotic animal disease generic contingency plan, which is available on the DEFRA website. These plans and procedures are kept under close review and have been used effectively to deal with all outbreaks of avian influenza.

We are committed to learning the lessons of all outbreaks. In October we published a Lessons Learned Report into the February H5N1 outbreak in poultry which concluded that our response was effective. The recommendations in the report have all been accepted and have already been adopted in our response to the current avian influenza, foot and mouth disease and bluetongue outbreaks.

We will continue to learn lessons from all exotic disease outbreaks and by applying them, continue to improve our response.

### Avian Influenza: Suffolk

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what inspections were undertaken by public agencies at Redgrave Park Farm in the last 12 months; which inspecting body performed each; and on what date. [165924]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Animal health staff visited Redgrave Park Farm for salmonella sampling in March 2007. We are not aware of any other public agency inspections prior to the start of the avian influenza investigation on 11 November 2007.

### Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he expects a vaccine to be available to use to prevent the spread of bluetongue serotype 8; and if he will make a statement; [165463]

(2) what vaccines are available to prevent the spread of each of the 24 bluetongue serotypes; and if he will make a statement; [165464]

(3) on what date he expects Merial to be able to resume working on a bluetongue vaccine at the Pirbright site; and if he will make a statement; [165465]

(4) what his estimate is of the likely cost to livestock farmers of purchasing a bluetongue vaccine; and if he will make a statement. [165466]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No suitable, inactivated vaccines are currently available for bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8), the strain of bluetongue currently in circulation in the east and south-east of England.

However, we are aware of at least three vaccine companies which have a BTV-8 vaccine in development. Production at one of those companies, Merial at Pirbright, was temporarily halted after tests revealed a possible link between the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak and Pirbright, and the use of live virus at Merial was suspended. Following detailed inspections at the site, we are now satisfied that they have in place all the necessary measures to ensure strict biosecurity throughout the site. On 6 November, we permitted Merial to begin using FMD and bluetongue viruses for vaccine production at the site. However, this has not prevented Merial from continuing development of vaccine as their Pirbright site is primarily a production, rather than research, facility; Merial conduct the majority of their research elsewhere.

On 1 November, my Department issued a tender to all three companies to supply between 10 and 20 million doses of vaccine. This tender closed on 15 November and an order will be placed as soon as possible, once we have fully assessed the bids submitted. This should ensure that a vaccine will be available for use by next summer.

In keeping with the principles set out in the Bluetongue Control Strategy, which was developed in partnership with the farming industry, livestock keepers will be offered the opportunity to purchase vaccine from the bank. Once a decision on the order has been made, we will provide an estimate of the cost of the vaccine and other associated costs to livestock keepers.

The BTV-8 vaccine we have tendered for will not offer any cross-protection against the other 23 bluetongue serotypes. Currently, there are suitable, inactivated vaccines available for bluetongue serotypes 1, 2 and 4. Live attenuated vaccines are available for other serotypes but there are significant potential risks associated with their use; so they would therefore not normally be considered as an initial control measure, in line with our policy of disease containment.

We are developing a detailed plan with bluetongue scientific experts, representatives of the farming industry and others as to how a vaccination programme would work. Discussions are also taking place with the European Commission and other member states about possible approaches to vaccination.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has for the application of a bluetongue vaccine. [166482]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* On 1 November DEFRA issued a tender for between 10 and 20 million doses of bluetongue vaccine. The tender closed on 15 November and we are treating the assessment of bids as a high priority. Our aim is to ensure that a firm order is placed as soon as possible, and a vaccine is available by next summer.

We are considering detailed bluetongue vaccination plans with representatives from the farming industry and scientific experts, so that we are fully prepared for when the vaccine is delivered. The issues that are being discussed include: whether to adopt a voluntary or compulsory approach; and whether there should be a phased approach to vaccination taking account of disease control priorities, such as certain high-risk areas or species.

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made on developing an effective vaccine against bluetongue. [166663]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Although there are no suitable, inactivated vaccines currently available for bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8), we are aware of at least three vaccine companies who have a BTV-8 vaccine in an advanced state of development. On 1 November, DEFRA issued a tender to all of those companies to supply between 10 and 20 million doses for a vaccine bank. This tender closed on 15 November and an order will be placed as soon as possible, once the bids have been fully assessed. This should ensure that a vaccine will be available for use by next summer.

We are also developing a detailed plan with bluetongue scientific experts, representatives of the farming industry and others as to how a vaccination programme would work. Discussions are taking place with the European Commission and other member states about possible approaches to vaccination.

### Bluetongue Disease: Prices

**Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the bluetongue outbreak on agriculture farmgate prices in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [164723]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA's current estimate of the economic cost to the UK livestock sector of movement restrictions and controls on exports, imposed as a result of foot and mouth disease and bluetongue, is over £100 million.

Disaggregated estimates of the impact on agricultural farmgate prices have not been made as these would be subject to considerable margins of error.

### Brixham Fish Quay

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated rebuilding costs of Brixham Fish Quay are; when the rebuilding will be *(a)* started and *(b)* completed; how much EU funding under Objective 2 the scheme has received; and if he will make a statement. [168629]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* In February 2007, the Marine and Fisheries Agency agreed to commit £2 million towards the renovation of Brixham Fish Market. Subsequently, we agreed that work on the project could begin in May 2007 and, exceptionally due to the importance of the project, that the project would be completed by October 2008, which is later than the formal Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance timetable.

The Objective 2 programme is contributing £2 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) towards the cost of the wider Brixham regeneration scheme. This includes access to the fish quay and the provision of workspace for marine and fish-related businesses, but not to the fish quay itself.

### Climate Change

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which representatives of his Department attended the Nerc-Quest workshop on climate change and uplands: science to inform adaptation, held in Bristol on 8-9 November. [167819]

**Mr. Woolas:** It is my policy not to name officials. Two DEFRA scientists attended the Bristol meeting on 8-9 November.

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who represented the United Kingdom at the 27th meeting of the intergovernmental panel on climate change, held in Valencia on 12 to 17 November; whether the Government submitted any papers to the meeting; and if he will make a statement on the outcome of the meeting. [167916]

**Mr. Woolas:** Five officials from my Department represented the United Kingdom at the 27th meeting of the intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) held in Valencia on 12 to 17 November.

Comments from the UK government on the draft text of the IPCC Synthesis Report of the 4th Assessment Report were sent to the IPCC prior to the meeting as part of the IPCC's consultation process.

The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the Synthesis Report was reviewed line by line and agreed by consensus by all governments to reflect the conclusion of the underlying 4th Assessment Report.

The report shows unequivocally that the climate is warming and that humans are largely responsible for

recent climate change. Climate change will continue to grow and its impacts are projected to become increasingly severe over the coming century if we do not take urgent and sustained action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The report shows that technologies already exist to make such deep cuts in emissions and that this can be done at a modest cost.

The report is highly relevant and timely. It is a clear call for urgent international action. We hope it will be given full and detailed consideration next week in Bali, when formal negotiations will be launched to achieve a global agreement to tackle climate change by 2009.

**Coastal Areas: Access**

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many responses he has received to his consultation document on access to coastal areas; what assessment he has made of such responses; and if he will make a statement. [167516]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* We received 749 responses to the coastal access consultation from a wide range of organisations and individuals, including 324 which were prompted by a campaign from the Ramblers' Association in support of Natural England s recommended approach that new legislation was the best way forward for improving coastal access.

Analysis of the responses began before the consultation closed on 11 September. From the analysis we concluded that the overall weight of the responses was in support of Natural England's recommendation and we have announced our intention to introduce legislation to provide a right to walk around the English coast.

We will publish a report shortly setting out an analysis of the detail of the responses to the consultation document.

**Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects Natural England to report on the impact of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. [167556]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In September 2007, Natural England published its first annual monitoring report on the right of access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The report is available on the Natural England website.

**Energy: Plastic**

**Mr. Meale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to promote the generation of energy from refuse plastic fuel. [167546]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Secretary of State is taking a number of steps to stimulate markets for SRF. Budget 2007 announced that the Government would review the classes of equipment that qualified for enhanced capital allowances (ECAs) for 'good quality' combined heat and power (CHP) schemes to ensure that all the equipment necessary for CHP schemes to utilise SRF was included. The review of the equipment list is now complete and an order will be laid before Parliament shortly revising the energy technology criteria list within the CHP scheme arrangements. Further information will be available shortly from the ECA programme or HM Revenue and Customs websites.

DEFRA is also working with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on proposals contained in its recent consultation, reform of the renewables obligation. If implemented, these could stimulate the co-firing of SRF with coal or biomass.

In 2006, DEFRA organised a workshop to draw to the attention of industrial intensive energy users the potential for SRF as an alternative energy feedstock to gas. A number of procurements for waste treatment and disposal infrastructure are now considering producing SRF, some of which could be used as an industrial fuel.

**Fish: Conservation**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how often he has *(a)* used and *(b)* attempted to use powers under Articles 7, 8 and 9 of Council Regulation 2371/220 to enable him to close areas to fishing; and if he will make a statement. [165474]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No recent attempts have been made by my Department to use these powers.

**Fisheries**

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report,* columns 1431-32W, on fisheries, what information his Department holds on discard pilot projects undertaken by other EU member states; and if he will make a statement. [165468]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) are partners in an EU project to evaluate the effectiveness of discard pilots across the Community. The work is not due to be completed until the spring of next year, but an interim report has been produced and I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the merits of fishing effort reduction in UK fisheries; and if he will make a statement. [165516]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In the absence of formal Commission proposals, my discussions with European colleagues thus far, concerning the effort management arrangements for next year, have not focused on issues specific to particular member states. I have however made clear that the UK will resist blunt cuts in days for 2008 and believe it is more important to focus on other ways of reducing fishing mortality, including through the operation of a real-time closure mechanism to protect concentrations of juvenile fish and the trialling of more selective gear.

## Fisheries: Databases

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what targets he has set on the average time to enter fisheries data on to the fisheries database; and if he will make a statement; [167639]

(2) what the average time taken to enter fisheries data on to the fisheries database was in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [167640]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) has a performance target of ensuring 90 per cent. of the information received on catches and fishing activity is entered onto the fisheries database within five working days of receipt of all necessary information.

This target relates to data on the activity of vessels above 10 metres in length. These account for the majority of the fishing effort and catch in the areas that fall under the MFA's responsibility.

Delays in the entry of data are recorded in terms of the time taken from the date of receipt of the information required to the date that the information is entered onto the fisheries database:

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Data relating to vessels of 10 metres and over* | | | | |
| Average delay (days) | 4.7 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.9 |
| Percentage of data entered within five working days of receipt | 79 | 93 | 95 | 90 |
| *Other data* | | | | |
| Average delay (days) | 3.4 | 1.9 | 3.4 | 11.3 |

The performance with regards to other data (primarily related to data received from sales notes related to activity by small vessels of 10 metres and under) has been affected by the introduction of the requirement for registration of buyers and sellers of fish from September 2005. This has led to a significant increase in the volume of such data being received for processing by the MFA during 2006. New procedures have been introduced and resources within the MFA have been reallocated to help deal with this increased workload while ensuring that the key performance target continues to be met.

## Fishing Catches

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the most recent estimate is for the time by which the EU discards atlas will be completed; and if he will make a statement. [165543]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Regrettably, the EU Discards Atlas project has still not been put out to tender and it is therefore not yet clear when it will commence. The Commission's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) is however holding a meeting in early December, which will be chaired by a scientist from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), to identify the EU fisheries with the highest discard levels.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to reduce North Sea fish discards; and if he will make a statement. [168303]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* In line with the latest scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the UK is proposing a modest increase of 15 per cent. in the North sea cod total allowable catch (TAC) for 2008. We believe this will reduce the scale of discarding, while the days at sea limitations under the EU's cod recovery plan will ensure that there is no additional targeting of the stock.

At the same time, the Government are developing with the UK industry a series of alternative measures designed to reduce fishing mortality. These include the piloting of a real-time closure mechanism in Scottish waters, where vessels are required to move grounds if the proportion of smaller fish in the catch exceeds a pre-determined maximum. Additionally, more selective fishing practices, developed in consultation with the fishing industry, are being commercially trialled with a view to more widespread application if successful.

## Fishing Vessels

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many 10-metre and under fishing vessels were registered in the UK in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [167654]

**Jonathan Shaw:** On 1 November 2007, there were 4,979 10-metre or under fishing vessels registered in the United Kingdom (excluding islands). The data for the years 1997 to 2006 (as at 31 December of each year) are in the following table.

| | *Number 10 metre and under* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 5,474 |
| 1998 | 5,487 |
| 1999 | 5,409 |
| 2000 | 5,273 |
| 2001 | 5,227 |
| 2002 | 5,287 |
| 2003 | 5,113 |
| 2004 | 5,092 |
| 2005 | 4,834 |
| 2006 | 4,896 |

## Foot and Mouth Disease

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his assessment is of the effect on market prices of pedigree livestock of *(a)* the foot and mouth and *(b)* the bluetongue outbreak; and if he will make a statement. [165467]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA's current estimate of the economic cost to the UK livestock sector of the movement restrictions and the ban on exports, imposed as a result of foot and mouth disease and bluetongue, is

over £100 million. Disaggregated estimates of the impact on market prices of pedigree livestock have not been made.

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether officials have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed as a result of the escape of the foot and mouth virus from the Pirbright laboratory; and if he will make a statement. [165605]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* No officials have been disciplined or dismissed as a result of the escape of the foot and mouth virus from the Pirbright laboratory. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE)-led investigation did not apportion blame to officials.

It concluded that it was not possible to identify which of three possible sources—the Institute of Animal Health, Merial or Stabilitech— was the origin of the release. The issue of fault and enforcement action is for Surrey Trading Standards.

### Foot and Mouth Disease: Compensation

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to compensate lowland livestock farmers for losses incurred as a result of restrictions introduced in respect of the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease. [166481]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 20 November2007]:* We are acutely aware of the difficulties facing the industry at this time. Compensation is paid at the market value for animals and goods, which are seized and destroyed for disease control purposes. However, it is a long established principle that the Government do not meet the costs of consequential losses, which must be borne instead by the industry.

To help the industry at this difficult time, we announced on 8 October a package of assistance worth £12.5 million. This is to support those livestock farmers most severely affected by the outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD), including those in the restriction areas and hill farmers. Support has also been included for meat promotion and farming charities, and this will benefit all farmers. The process of implementing the support package is well under way and some elements have almost been completed.

The most effective and sustainable way to improve the position for farmers is a speedy resumption of exports. A new European Commission Decision this week will allow much of Britain to start exporting meat again under normal community rules, and with appropriate certification. We are doing all we can to obtain FMD free status at the earliest possible date in January.

### Foot and Mouth Disease: Cumbria

**David Maclean:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claims in Cumbria arising from the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak were settled in each year from 2001 to 2007; and how many are outstanding. [165503]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The numbers of claims brought in Cumbria following the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak, which were settled either in court or by an out of court settlement, are as follows:

(i) 405 claims were settled in relation to animal valuation; and

(ii) 388 claims were settled in relation to cleansing and disinfection.

Establishing the number of claims that were settled each year from 2001 to 2007 could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

There are still three outstanding claims in Cumbria. In each case, negotiations between DEFRA and the claimants are ongoing and matters currently rest with the claimants.

In addition, there are four farmers who have not yet submitted a formal claim for damage to their properties during 2001.

### Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely timetable for each measure put in place to control *(a)* foot and mouth disease and *(b)* bluetongue. [162224]

**Jonathan Shaw:** For foot and mouth disease (FMD), the FMD Surveillance Zone was lifted on 5 November. On 6 November the EU agreed to relax the current FMD export restrictions on meat and meat products. On 19 November the FMD Restricted Zone was lifted.

The EU decision has split the UK into the following three areas:

1. FMD Free Export Area—Meat and products originating from susceptible animals in this area will be eligible for export under normal Community rules subject to certification.

2. FMD Restricted Export Area—Meat and products originating from susceptible animals in this area will be eligible for export provided they meet certain conditions, including providing documentation confirming the completion of a 21 day standstill and residency period (7 day standstill in the case of pigs).

3. FMD No Export Area—Meat and products originating from susceptible animals in this area cannot be allowed to be exported.

A map detailing these areas is available on the DEFRA website and I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The FMD Restricted Zone was lifted when the new EU Decision came into force on 19 November. If no further amendments are made to the EU decision, the provisions on meat and meat products are expected to apply until mid December, and those on live animals until the end of the year.

A further surveillance programme of sample herds and flocks is to be carried out to confirm disease freedom with the European Commission. Subject to the satisfactory outcome of this surveillance, restoration of international disease freedom under OIE criteria could be considered at the earliest in January 2008.

For bluetongue, the timetable will be dependent on developments in the disease situation. OIE guidelines state that, following confirmation of bluetongue disease, a surveillance programme has to demonstrate no evidence of Bluetongue circulating in the country or zone over the course of two years before restrictions

can be lifted. However, there is limited scope within EU legislation to amend the size of zones in this period.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government have put in place a revised national contingency plan following the recent foot and mouth outbreak. [166735]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The national contingency plan is published and laid before Parliament annually. It was last laid in December 2006. The next plan will reflect the results of a consultation exercise which concluded on 11 October 2007, and lessons learned from the recent foot and mouth disease outbreak. At present, we plan to lay it before Parliament in December.

### Foot and Mouth Disease: Finance

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his latest estimate is of the cost of the foot and mouth outbreak to the *(a)* public purse and *(b)* agriculture industry. [164394]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA's current estimate of the economic cost to the UK livestock sector of movement restrictions and controls on exports, imposed as a result of foot and mouth disease (FMD) and bluetongue, is over £100 million.

As at 12 October, the total forecast cost of the FMD and bluetongue outbreaks to DEFRA and its agencies was approximately £47 million.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average fee was for administration of a warm front voucher in the latest period for which figures are available; how the fee was calculated; which organisation receives the fee revenues; and if he will make a statement. [168237]

**Mr. Woolas:** Fees for administrating the £300 voucher scheme are paid to eaga plc, which successfully won the contract to manage the Warm Front scheme following a competitive tendering exercise. The fees were set following a proposal put forward by eaga, which was scrutinised by DEFRA procurement officials to ensure value for money was obtained. For reasons of commercial sensitivity, we are unable to provide specific details on the value of these management fees.

### Inland Waterways

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what work his Department has undertaken with the National Audit Office to respond to recommendation four of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee's report on British Waterways; and when he expects to make that response. [167868]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The National Audit Office has been in close contact with British Waterways about the information required and plans to finalise a response to the Committee's request next week. This Department has been kept up-to-date with progress.

### Ivory

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 245, on ivory, what plans his Department has to undertake research to identify the scale and nature of ivory trade within the UK to inform the EU's response to the ivory trade questionnaire issued by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. [167723]

**Joan Ruddock:** The nature of many of the questions will require EU countries to provide relatively simple data about the import and export of ivory. The draft EU response will be discussed at the next EU Management Committee on trade in wild fauna and flora on 14 December in Brussels. Once we have seen the draft we will provide additional information as necessary.

### Landfill

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for his Department's participation in the Environmental Permitting Programme; and what assessment he has made of the programme's effect on landfill sites and former landfill sites. [168173]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 were laid in Parliament in October 2007. They provide an opportunity to reduce administrative burdens on business and regulators by replacing the existing waste management licensing and pollution prevention and control (PPC) systems with a single, simple, radically streamlined environmental permitting and compliance system for England and Wales. The regulations will maintain existing levels of protection of the environment and human health for waste management licensed and PPC permitted sites, including landfill sites and former landfills which have licences or permits.

I refer my hon. Friend to the regulatory impact assessment that accompanies the regulations and which is published on our website.

### Livestock: Diseases

**Mr. McGrady:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on contagious diseases affecting livestock; and if he will make a statement. [167069]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government are working closely with the devolved administrations to co-ordinate the disease control response. Officials in the Northern Ireland Executive are actively involved in policy decisions for foot and mouth disease (FMD), bluetongue and now avian influenza, and in reviewing the disease control strategies.

### Marine and Fisheries Agency: Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funds he plans to allocate to the Marine and Fisheries Agency in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [167638]

**Jonathan Shaw:** As an Executive Agency of DEFRA, the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) participates in our business planning and budgeting process. These are currently in hand for the period covered by the recent comprehensive spending review (CSR07), namely 2008-09 to 2010-11. The allocations for the MFA have therefore not yet been finalised.

### Meat: Exports

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from which regions of the UK it has become possible to export meat products again following the lifting of the foot and mouth disease ban. [162022]

**Jonathan Shaw:** On 6 November the European Union (EU) agreed to relax the current foot and mouth disease (FMD) export restrictions on meat and meat products. On 19 November the FMD Restricted Zone was lifted and the new EU Decision came into force. If no further amendments are made to the EU Decision, the provisions on meat and meat products are expected to apply until mid December. The Decision has split the UK into three areas for the purposes of EU trade in meat and meat products:

1. FMD Free Export Area—Meat and products originating from susceptible animals in this area will be eligible for export under normal Community rules subject to certification. The FMD Free Export Area includes all parts of Great Britain, except those which lie within the FMD Restricted Export Area and FMD No Export Area as described below.

2. FMD Restricted Export Area—Meat and products originating from susceptible animals in this area will be eligible for export provided they meet certain conditions, including documentation confirming the completion of a 21 day standstill and residency period (a 7 day standstill in the case of pigs). The FMD Restricted Export Area includes:

Administrative unit
Brighton and Hove
Medway
Milton Keynes
Thurrock
West Berkshire
Bedfordshire
East Sussex county
Hertfordshire county
Kent
Oxfordshire county
Administrative unit
Wiltshire county
Gloucestershire county
Cambridgeshire county
Northamptonshire county
Warwickshire county
Swindon
Luton
Southend on Sea

3. FMD No Export Area—Meat and products originating from susceptible animals in this area are not allowed to be exported. The FMD No Export Area includes:

Administrative Unit
Bracknell Forest
City of Southampton
Reading
Slough
Swindon
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wokingham
City of Portsmouth
Buckinghamshire county
Hampshire county
Surrey
West Sussex county
London

Further information, including a map of the FMD Restricted Zone and the restrictions that apply, can be found on the DEFRA website. A further map, which highlights the three different export areas is also available.

### Milk: Prices

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on recent trends in farm-gate milk prices. [167854]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* Farm gate prices are at their highest levels since 1996. Concerns about animal disease notwithstanding, the situation in the dairy sector is considerably more positive than it has been for some time.

While commodity prices appear to have peaked and there is likely to be a consequential effect on farm gate prices in due course, given increasing demand for dairy products, prices are not expected to fall to earlier levels at least in the short to medium term.

### Nature Conservation

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) under what timetable habitat action plans will be produced to instigate the recovery of habitats on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority list; [167751]

(2) whether baseline information on the status of the species and habitats on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority list has been obtained; [167752]

(3) when progress on the conservation of the species and habitats on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority list will be assessed; [167753]

(4) under what timetable species action plans will be produced to instigate the recovery of species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority list. [167755]

**Joan Ruddock:** I announced a new UK list of priority species and habitats on 28 August 2007. Action plans for many of these, such as the otter and lowland heathland, have already been in place for a number of years which has resulted in significant recovery.

The development of action plans for new priority habitats is a devolved matter and each country will carry this out to their own timetable. However, recent discussions between the countries indicate that Habitat Groups and lead partners will be appointed during 2008, with the preparation of objectives/targets by early 2009 and the completion of habitat management guidance (to take account of relevant species needs) by the end of April 2009. Implementation of the existing priority habitat action plans will continue in parallel with this process.

Baseline information on the status of the priority species and habitats was taken from experts to show the degree of threat and rate of decline in habitats and species in the UK to substantiate the listing. Good information was available for some, but for others, it was more limited. Information gaps will be addressed through a UK surveillance strategy being developed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Experts also provided information on the importance of the species and habitats from an international perspective.

The next reporting round under the Biodiversity Action Plan will take place in late 2008 and will assess progress on the original list of priority species and habitats. Subsequent rounds will report progress on the new list and we will need to consider with the devolved administrations how UK progress is to be assessed in the light of deliberations currently being undertaken at the country level.

Not all species will need discrete plans as the UK Biodiversity Partnership is adopting the ecosystem approach which focuses on causes rather than symptoms. There is no specified timetable for the completion of the action plans but experts across the UK Biodiversity Partnership are already being consulted on which species would require individual management action and which would benefit from collective action. Natural England, as lead delivery body in England, will then prioritise the species found in England and identify lead partners where appropriate. Similar arrangements are being put in place in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with joint working between countries where this will assist in securing conservation benefits.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of the species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority list occur in England; and how many of these were listed due to severe decline. [167754]

**Joan Ruddock:** 931 of the UK priority species occur in England, of which 283 qualified for listing owing to severe decline.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which habitats on the UK biodiversity action plan priority list occur in England. [167756]

**Joan Ruddock:** 57 habitats of the 65 on the UK list of priority species and habitats occur in England. They comprise woodlands, lowland agricultural habitats, heathlands, wetlands, upland habitats, coasts and seas. For the first time, recognition has been given to the critical role of several habitats new to the listing, including traditional orchards and ponds. A full list of the habitats in England follows:

BAP Habitats in England

Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies
Arable field margins
Blanket bog
Blue mussel beds
Calaminarian grasslands
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
Coastal saltmarsh
Coastal sand dunes
Coastal vegetated shingle
Estuarine rocky habitats
Eutrophic standing waters
Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats
Hedgerows
Horse mussel beds
Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
Intertidal boulder communities
Intertidal chalk
Intertidal mudflats
Limestone pavements
Lowland beech and yew woodland
Lowland calcareous grassland
Lowland dry acid grassland
Lowland fens
Lowland heathland
Lowland meadows
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
Lowland raised bog
Maerl beds
Maritime cliff and slopes
Mesotrophic lakes
Mountain heaths and willow scrub
Mud habitats in deep water
Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
Peat and clay exposures
Ponds
Purple moor grass and rush pastures
Reedbeds
Rivers
Sabellaria alveolate reefs
Sabellaria spinulosa reefs
Saline lagoons
Seagrass beds
Sheltered muddy gravels
Subtidal chalk
Subtidal sands and gravels
Tide-swept channels
Traditional orchards
Upland birchwoods
Upland calcareous grassland
Upland flushes, fens and swamps
Upland hay meadows
Upland heathland
Upland mixed ashwoods
Upland oakwood
Wet woodland
Wood-pasture and parkland

### Nature Conservation: British Overseas Territories

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contribution the UK is making to *(a)* improving species conservation and *(b)* tackling non-native invasive species in the Overseas Territories; and if he will make a statement. [167239]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government's aim is to work in partnership with the Overseas Territory Governments to assist them in achieving, among other things, the objectives set out in individual Overseas Territories Environment Charters. In doing so the Government provide access to funding to improve species conservation from a variety of sources, for example: the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), jointly managed by the FCO and DFID; the Darwin Initiative; the International Sustainable Development Fund (ISDF); the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP); and the Flagship Species Fund, administered by Fauna and Flora International, but supported by DEFRA.

On non-native invasive species, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), the statutory adviser to Government on UK and international nature conservation, has undertaken a review of non-native species in the UK Overseas Territories. This review is being used to guide various projects relating to invasive species in Overseas Territories. In June 2007 JNCC also hosted a workshop on invasive species in the Overseas Territories bringing together a range of stakeholders to share information, and to discuss future collaboration in this area of work.

Elsewhere, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, (a DEFRA sponsored body) has undertaken a number of separate initiatives, including a programme of seed collecting initiated in four Territories (British Virgin Islands, St. Helena, Ascension and Falkland Islands), and DMA banking of the Flora of South Georgia.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what animal welfare and protection provisions apply in the Overseas Territories, with particular reference to nesting marine turtles. [167330]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Animal welfare and protection provisions are matters for individual Overseas Territory Governments. With regard to marine turtles, in 2001 DEFRA and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) jointly commissioned the Marine Turtle Research Group (MTRG) to undertake a research project on the Status and Exploitation of Marine Turtles in the UK Caribbean Overseas Territories (TCOT). The resultant report, published in 2004, outlines the diversity of legislation relating to the protection, harvest and sale of marine turtles.

In relation to the British Indian Ocean Territory, the UK is a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia (IOSEA). The MoU puts in place a framework through which States of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian region, as well as other concerned States, can work together to conserve and replenish depleted marine turtle populations for which they share responsibility. Since 2002 the Government have provided voluntary contributions totalling around £150,000 to fund projects that fall under the MoU.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many extinctions of species have been recorded in the Overseas Territories in the last five years. [167359]

**Joan Ruddock:** According to advice from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), the statutory adviser to Government on UK and international nature conservation, there has been one extinction in the last five years in Her Majesty's Overseas Territories namely the St. Helena Olive *Nesiota elliptica*. The last cultivated St. Helena Olive tree, an endemic to the island of the same name, died in 2003 on St. Helena; the last wild individual died in 1994.

### North Sea: Total Allowable Catches

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the appropriate level for total allowable catch in the North Sea for *(a)* herring, *(b)* cod, *(c)* haddock, *(d)* whiting, *(e)* plaice and *(f)* sole in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [165470]

**Jonathan Shaw:** In the light of the latest scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), in the current EU/Norway negotiations, we are seeking the following changes to the total allowable catches (TAC) in the North sea for 2008:

*(a)* to limit the cut in herring to 35 per cent.;

*(b)* a 15 per cent. increase in cod;

*(c)* to limit the cut in haddock to 15 per cent., in line with the joint management plan;

*(d)* to limit the cut in whiting to 15 per cent.; and

*(e)* to set the plaice TAC in line with the joint management plan.

In addition, in the discussions surrounding the December EU Fisheries Council, we will be seeking to limit the cut in the North sea sole TAC to 15 per cent. *(f)*.

### Penguins: Falkland Islands

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance the Government has offered the Falklands government in tackling the decline in the number of rockhopper penguins. [167236]

**Joan Ruddock:** The UK Government continue to provide assistance, when requested, for example, through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), which is administered jointly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID). OTEP has been established to support the Overseas Territories in developing and implementing action plans under their respective Environment Charters. The UK Government have not provided assistance specifically relating to conservation of rockhopper penguins. However, I understand that a bid to OTEP from the Falkland Islands on this issue is

likely to be made in the next round of bidding. If so this will be considered alongside all the other projects received by OTEP.

### Plastics: Packaging

**Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of seeking the introduction of tax on plastic bags to encourage the use of recyclable alternatives; and what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this matter. [166365]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government have no current plans for a plastic bags tax, although the Chancellor keeps all taxes under review. Any decision on a levy on plastic bags would be for the Treasury to make.

We are interested in reducing the environmental impact of all single-use carrier bags, not just plastic bags. The Waste Strategy for England 2007, launched in May, aims to make single-use carrier bags a thing of the past, and we are actively working on the best ways to achieve this objective.

### Poultry

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many poultry are registered on the GB Poultry Register in the avian influenza *(a)* protection zone, *(b)* surveillance zone and *(c)* restricted zone; and how many free range poultry there are in each zone; [166403]

(2) how many holdings are registered on the GB Poultry Register in the avian influenza *(a)* protection zone, *(b)* surveillance zone and *(c)* restricted zone; and how many free range holdings there are in each zone; [166404]

(3) how many *(a)* poultry and *(b)* free range poultry are registered on the GB Poultry Register in each county; [166405]

(4) how many *(a)* holdings and *(b)* free range holdings are registered on the GB Poultry Register in each county. [166406]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* On 14 November 2007 the following free range premises were registered on the GB Poultry Register (GBPR):

(i) Protection Zone: 5 premises (including the infected premises) with 36,802 birds. One of these premises, the infected premises, was registered as free range and had a total of 6,800 birds.

(ii) Surveillance Zone: an additional 92 premises with 4,085,476 birds. 38 of these premises were registered as free range and had a total of 167,397 birds.

(iii) Restricted Zone: an additional 1,372 premises with 24,987,220 birds. 473 of these premises were registered as free range and had a total of 2,777, 143 birds.

Not all birds on free range premises will necessarily be free range.

There are a total 24,151 premises registered on the GBPR with 273,285,189 birds. Of these 10,129 premises are registered as being free range and have a total of 44,830,869 birds.

The following table shows the number of premises and birds (in total and for free range premises) in each county/administrative area of Great Britain:

| *Name* | *Premises* | *Total birds* | *Free range premises* | *Total birds on free range premises* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barnsley District | 72 | 126,583 | 34 | 20,448 |
| Birmingham District | 14 | 56,202 | 6 | 8,003 |
| Bolton District | 22 | 144,405 | 11 | 64,787 |
| Bradford District | 77 | 126,933 | 47 | 15,987 |
| Bury District | 21 | 195,230 | 14 | 2,041 |
| Calderdale District | 57 | 12,402 | 35 | 8,453 |
| Coventry District | 16 | 20,513 | 7 | 2,251 |
| Doncaster District | 53 | 120,611 | 24 | 82,394 |
| Dudley District | 4 | 377 | 2 | 311 |
| Gateshead District | 17 | 30,357 | 6 | 24,586 |
| Kirklees District | 84 | 259,240 | 46 | 51,987 |
| Knowsley District | 6 | 18,643 | 4 | 2,843 |
| Leeds District | 79 | 424,860 | 34 | 124,749 |
| Liverpool District | 8 | 633 | 3 | 97 |
| Manchester District | 4 | 296 | 2 | 5 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne District | 9 | 2,284 | 3 | 1,425 |
| North Tyneside District | 15 | 8,714 | 2 | 100 |
| Oldham District | 14 | 9,540 | 6 | 2,038 |
| Rochdale District | 18 | 18,494 | 10 | 14,923 |
| Rotherham District | 61 | 195,963 | 29 | 42,895 |
| Salford District | 3 | 1,907 | 0 | 0 |
| Sandwell District | 2 | 224 | 1 | 214 |
| Sefton District | 13 | 40,486 | 4 | 11,101 |
| Sheffield District | 41 | 36,303 | 19 | 6,247 |
| Solihull District | 21 | 165,031 | 12 | 35,323 |
| South Tyneside District | 4 | 1,006 | 0 | 0 |
| Stockport District | 9 | 3,541 | 5 | 351 |
| St. Helens District | 13 | 22,711 | 3 | 4,708 |
| Sunderland District | 23 | 15,648 | 9 | 3,399 |
| Tameside District | 9 | 3,154 | 3 | 1,596 |
| Trafford District | 12 | 283,561 | 4 | 372 |
| Wakefield District | 88 | 1,290,063 | 24 | 3,596 |
| Walsall District | 10 | 18,075 | 4 | 1,806 |
| Wigan District | 19 | 15,340 | 10 | 11,580 |
| Wirral District | 14 | 43,193 | 10 | 37,673 |
| Wolverhampton District | 3 | 162 | 1 | 148 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 63 | 616,316 | 32 | 86,687 |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 22 | 62,190 | 12 | 2,801 |
| Blackpool | 2 | 154 | 0 | 0 |
| Bournemouth | 3 | 50 | 2 | 47 |
| Bracknell Forest | 16 | 27,232 | 9 | 1,080 |
| Brighton and Hove | 14 | 9,547 | 7 | 1,121 |
| City of Bristol | 9 | 1,104 | 5 | 1,033 |
| City of Derby | 9 | 40,819 | 3 | 204 |
| City of Kingston upon Hull | 3 | 1,044 | 1 | 730 |
| City of Leicester | 3 | 71 | 1 | 48 |
| City of Nottingham | 2 | 374 | 1 | 124 |
| City of Peterborough | 36 | 229,173 | 14 | 27,311 |
| City of Southampton | 9 | 1,027 | 2 | 726 |
| City of Stoke-on-Trent | 6 | 233 | 1 | 19 |
| County of Herefordshire | 480 | 13,107,525 | 185 | 668,956 |

| Name | Premises | Total birds | Free range premises | Total birds on free range premises |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Darlington | 24 | 279,273 | 8 | 17,619 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 406 | 4,677,553 | 149 | 478,531 |
| Halton | 9 | 15,030 | 5 | 14,151 |
| Hartlepool | 14 | 651,864 | 1 | 200 |
| Luton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Medway | 17 | 6,877 | 4 | 508 |
| Middlesbrough | 2 | 419 | 1 | 359 |
| Milton Keynes | 29 | 40,267 | 9 | 4,249 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 14 | 26,990 | 6 | 4,422 |
| North Lincolnshire | 126 | 7,173,846 | 30 | 63,608 |
| Poole | 8 | 691 | 5 | 524 |
| Reading | 4 | 381 | 0 | 0 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 27 | 49,531 | 15 | 1,509 |
| Rutland | 56 | 227,231 | 23 | 85,553 |
| Slough | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 2 | 424 | 0 | 0 |
| South Gloucestershire | 85 | 1,018,013 | 39 | 31,462 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 18 | 23,751 | 10 | 6,370 |
| Swindon | 30 | 55,683 | 12 | 7,222 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 57 | 1,300,848 | 21 | 366,670 |
| Thurrock | 10 | 6,188 | 5 | 2,000 |
| Torbay | 15 | 25,350 | 7 | 2,257 |
| Warrington | 26 | 31,588 | 9 | 8,080 |
| West Berkshire | 123 | 497,501 | 50 | 223,917 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 17 | 107,998 | 9 | 66,848 |
| Wokingham | 26 | 227,714 | 9 | 30,069 |
| York | 40 | 317,660 | 14 | 27,556 |
| Angus | 115 | 1,489,543 | 38 | 193,903 |
| Clackmannanshire | 20 | 1,013,387 | 6 | 9,989 |
| Dundee City | 5 | 14,827 | 2 | 26 |
| East Ayrshire | 48 | 303,720 | 8 | 45,357 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 7 | 5,050 | 4 | 675 |
| East Renfrewshire | 7 | 2,996 | 5 | 936 |
| Falkirk | 15 | 49,356 | 7 | 1,756 |
| Glasgow City | 4 | 397 | 1 | 203 |
| Inverclyde | 6 | 12,730 | 3 | 3,980 |
| Midlothian | 24 | 129,443 | 5 | 64,511 |
| North Lanarkshire | 9 | 16,111 | 5 | 1,234 |
| Perth and Kinross | 217 | 2,760,605 | 66 | 454,441 |
| Renfrewshire | 5 | 7,220 | 1 | 82 |
| Scottish Borders | 284 | 4,252,288 | 77 | 717,256 |
| South Lanarkshire | 67 | 206,164 | 27 | 6,364 |
| Stirling | 53 | 74,966 | 16 | 16,461 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 4 | 2,243 | 1 | 143 |
| West Lothian | 27 | 1,364,711 | 10 | 21,064 |
| Abertawe-Swansea | 31 | 403,652 | 12 | 3,152 |
| Blaenau Gwent-Blaenau Gwent | 4 | 390 | 3 | 347 |
| Bro Morgannwg-the Vale of Glamorgan | 30 | 63,732 | 15 | 49,326 |
| Caerffili-Caerphilly | 22 | 36,248 | 16 | 35,998 |
| Casnewydd-Newport | 6 | 30,595 | 3 | 29,415 |
| Castell-Nedd Port Talbot-Neath Port Talbot | 22 | 2,680 | 16 | 2,000 |
| Conwy-Conwy | 50 | 333,970 | 26 | 118,873 |
| Merthyr Tudful-Merthyr Tydfil | 5 | 348 | 2 | 221 |
| Pen-y-bont Ar Ogwr-Bridgend | 18 | 17,905 | 9 | 6,886 |
| Powys-Powys | 258 | 4,439,882 | 112 | 1,226,658 |
| Rhondda, Cynon, Taf-Rhondda, Cynon, Taff | 50 | 5,938 | 20 | 3,406 |
| Sir Ddinbych-Denbighshire | 86 | 444,091 | 38 | 123,514 |
| Air Fynwy-Monmouthshire | 134 | 1,993,274 | 60 | 227,657 |
| Sir Gaerfyrddin-Carmarthenshire | 128 | 980,473 | 59 | 68,364 |
| Sir Y Fflint-Flintshire | 59 | 860,094 | 23 | 8,020 |
| Tor-Faen-Torfaen | 17 | 45,743 | 12 | 5,183 |
| Wrecsam-Wrexham | 67 | 612,706 | 34 | 21,746 |
| Isle of Wight | 95 | 132,664 | 48 | 63,396 |
| Sir Ynys Mon-Isle of Anglesey | 68 | 1,950,210 | 27 | 50,510 |
| Gwynedd-Gwynedd | 106 | 366,191 | 70 | 24,338 |
| Caerdydd-Cardiff | 4 | 629 | 1 | 115 |
| Sir Ceredigion-Ceredigion | 56 | 34,762 | 30 | 6,474 |
| Sir Benfro-Pembrokeshire | 106 | 342,286 | 57 | 277,704 |
| North Somerset | 72 | 214,517 | 42 | 116,601 |
| Highland | 196 | 751,959 | 92 | 84,811 |
| Moray | 68 | 509,719 | 20 | 82,818 |
| Orkney Islands | 39 | 5,744 | 35 | 4,664 |
| Na h-Eileanan an Iar | 16 | 7,344 | 15 | 3,264 |
| Argyll and Bute | 82 | 112,644 | 37 | 23,331 |
| Aberdeenshire | 279 | 3,499,893 | 108 | 427,364 |
| Fife | 133 | 2,623,303 | 41 | 524,908 |
| Aberdeen City | 9 | 2,783 | 4 | 1,163 |
| City of Edinburgh | 24 | 858,893 | 2 | 52 |
| East Lothian | 84 | 625,768 | 29 | 179,292 |
| Shetland Islands | 9 | 1,399 | 8 | 1,335 |
| North Ayrshire | 28 | 274,886 | 10 | 5,569 |
| South Ayrshire | 44 | 216,642 | 14 | 126,518 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 300 | 3,407,520 | 91 | 603,708 |
| City of Portsmouth | 3 | 65 | 0 | 0 |
| City of Plymouth | 7 | 822 | 6 | 820 |
| Bedfordshire County | 188 | 1,102,864 | 79 | 72,369 |
| Buckinghamshire County | 236 | 2,861,310 | 113 | 287,025 |
| Cambridgeshire County | 377 | 4,718,273 | 150 | 447,257 |
| Cheshire County | 340 | 4,017,871 | 136 | 415,570 |
| Cumbria County | 597 | 4,343,446 | 294 | 421,901 |
| Derbyshire County | 405 | 4,253,921 | 200 | 252,680 |
| Dorset County | 558 | 3,428,854 | 271 | 633,402 |
| Durham County | 203 | 1,486,378 | 88 | 258,672 |
| East Sussex County | 319 | 1,130,193 | 176 | 399,716 |
| Essex County | 618 | 6,789,198 | 230 | 467,974 |
| Gloucestershire County | 457 | 4,700,216 | 181 | 716,833 |
| Hampshire County | 736 | 6,143,459 | 263 | 1,617,759 |
| Hertfordshire County | 237 | 985,375 | 93 | 169,892 |
| Kent County | 544 | 4,935,853 | 241 | 1,273,725 |
| Lancashire County | 560 | 6,655,582 | 230 | 2,954,350 |
| Leicestershire County | 327 | 3,510,332 | 128 | 824,723 |
| Lincolnshire County | 932 | 23,061,182 | 365 | 4,491,728 |
| Norfolk County | 1160 | 23,703,003 | 385 | 2,221,441 |

| Name | Premises | Total birds | Free range premises | Total birds on free range premises |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northamptonshire County | 292 | 3,175,267 | 123 | 618,409 |
| North Yorkshire County | 1104 | 13,587,227 | 414 | 2,780,175 |
| Nottinghamshire County | 338 | 6,231,030 | 120 | 1,560,430 |
| Oxfordshire County | 425 | 3,950,155 | 165 | 531,965 |
| Shropshire County | 634 | 12,883,131 | 270 | 1,253,384 |
| Somerset County | 737 | 6,207,234 | 380 | 958,205 |
| Staffordshire County | 387 | 2,598,506 | 181 | 1,071,866 |
| Suffolk County | 848 | 13,341,665 | 311 | 1,695,777 |
| Surrey County | 273 | 582,494 | 132 | 252,826 |
| Warwickshire County | 294 | 3,341,129 | 133 | 789,242 |
| West Sussex County | 402 | 2,128,925 | 157 | 349,252 |
| Wiltshire County | 513 | 5,966,496 | 170 | 481,964 |
| Worcestershire County | 369 | 2,314,761 | 166 | 533,969 |
| Greater London Authority | 79 | 98,225 | 35 | 78,794 |
| Northumberland County | 349 | 1,504,538 | 125 | 255,379 |
| Devon County | 1,179 | 12,102,009 | 627 | 3,628,352 |
| Cornwall County | 538 | 3,105,506 | 302 | 1,152,390 |
| Isles of Scilly | 8 | 2,535 | 7 | 1,335 |
| Total | 24,110 | 273,434,179 | 10,120 | 44,821,641 |
| Unknown county | 41 | 51,010 | 9 | 9,228 |

Some premises cannot currently be assigned a county due to the submission of insufficient and/or inaccurate geographical information. Therefore totals in this table will differ from those quoted above.

These are the totals 'normally' stocked and therefore do not represent the actual number likely to be present on any specific day.

### Recycling

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what incentives the Government has put in place to encourage households to reduce household waste and recycle more. [168790]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* Following a public consultation exercise over the summer, we announced that the Climate Change Bill will provide a power for local authorities to pilot incentives for household waste minimisation and recycling. I announced more detailed proposals on 15 November, which for the first time, will allow approved authorities to recognise more effectively the efforts of those householders who reduce, reuse and recycle their waste, and provide an incentive to those who currently do not.

A maximum of five local authorities will be able to pilot schemes and councils will be able to come forward with their own plans to fit local circumstances, for approval by the Secretary of State. This approach will allow us to monitor the impacts of incentives in England and report back to Parliament before a decision is made as to whether to roll this power out more widely.

### Recycling: Standards

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the quality and value of recycled material of separating waste for recycling. [168558]

**Joan Ruddock:** Market values for recovered materials depend on the supply and demand conditions in end-use markets (which may be overseas) as well as factors including volume, the price of substitute materials (including virgin materials), energy prices and other commodity prices.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) produces a monthly Materials Pricing Report, available on its website, which focuses on prices for recovered materials. This indicates that higher prices are achieved for materials which have been effectively sorted into economically valuable components. For example, the market value of recycled aluminium cans is around £700-£750 per tonne compared to £150 per tonne for mixed cans.

WRAP's advice is that, at the present time, kerbside sorting delivers better quality materials to the marketplace and with lower levels of contamination compared to co-mingled collections of recyclables. This improved quality may not currently be reflected in market prices. However an advantage of kerbside sorting is that the benefits from the sale of materials tend to accrue directly to the local authority selling the materials while co-mingled schemes involve the payment of gate fees for additional sorting.

### Seabed: Scotland

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the Scottish Executive on changes to the control of the sea bed up to the 200 nautical miles limit around Scotland, with particular reference to the proposed Marine Bill; and if he will make a statement. [166204]

**Jonathan Shaw:** During the preparation of the Marine Bill White Paper and the draft Marine Bill, DEFRA has received representations from the devolved administrations regarding the appropriate balance of responsibilities in the UK marine area. In coming to a view on legislation, the Government work closely with the devolved administrations. Proposals for a UK Marine Bill will be brought forward in due course.

### Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Standards

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of sites of special scientific interest which were in favourable condition in each year for which records are available; what steps are being taken to ensure the Government reaches its Public Service Agreement target to bring 95 per cent. of nationally important wildlife sites into favourable condition by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [165542]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]* The public service agreement target to bring 95 per cent. of sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) land into favourable or recovering condition was set in 2000. The first round of the condition assessment programme was completed in 2003 and showed that 56.9 per cent. of SSSI area was in target condition. The figures for 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 (as at 31 March) were 62.9 per cent., 67.4 per cent., 72.3 per cent. and 75.4 per cent. respectively. At 20 November 2007, 77.14 per cent. of SSSI area was in target condition.

We are working closely with our delivery partners, including Natural England and the Environment Agency, towards delivery of the SSSI PSA target and are closely monitoring progress and addressing any issues that might occur. We are confident that the 2010 target of 95 per cent. remains achievable.

### Tigers: India

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to seek to prevent the extinction of the Indian tiger; and if he will make a statement. [166993]

**Joan Ruddock:** Since 2000 the UK has committed around £500,000 to tiger conservation. This is through our membership of the Global Tiger Forum, where we are the only non range state member, and through support to '21st Century Tiger', which is a wild tiger conservation partnership between the Zoological Society of London and Global Tiger Patrol.

In addition, the Government funded and organised a wildlife crime workshop in India in 2006 in support of the UK-India Sustainable Development Dialogue. Law enforcement officers and conservationists from the UK and India identified poaching and illegal trade as a major cause of the sharp drop in tiger numbers. The workshop recommended that each state government draw up and implement an action plan to end poaching through better surveillance and imposition of tough penalties. To assist in this process the Government have provided financial assistance to the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) to conduct a series of training and capacity building sessions to officials from state forest departments, police and customs. Around 270 officials have been trained on issues in relation to trade in endangered species, such as the tiger.

### Waste Management

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with local authorities about the management of waste; and if he will make a statement. [167583]

**Joan Ruddock** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* My Department has discussions regularly with local authorities about a wide range of issues concerned with waste management.

The Government set out their vision for sustainable waste management in Waste Strategy for England 2007, published in May. Local authorities play a key role in delivering this national strategy and both Ministers and officials from my Department have engaged with authorities on the strategy's development and will continue to do so as it is implemented and delivered.

### Water: Standards

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the classification of bathing water between 2016 and 2020 under the criteria outlined in Article 5(4) of Directive 2006/7/EC; and if he will make a statement. [168231]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 30W.

Since we expect that all designated bathing waters will achieve the 'sufficient' classification under the revised Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC, by the end of the 2015 bathing season, we do not intend to make use of Article 5(4) of the directive.

## TREASURY

### Academies Review

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which academies will be studied by the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit as part of its Academies Review; and if he will make a statement. [167780]

**Andy Burnham:** The joint PMDU/DCSF review of the Academies programme is looking at how the Academies programme is meeting the objectives of turning around attainment in underperforming schools and how the programme is addressing a culture of underachievement and low aspirations in some of the most disadvantaged communities. Officials are studying progress across the full Academy programme.

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the agreement between HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the National Audit Office (NAO) that governs the NAO's access to personal data held by HMRC. [167677]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The NAO derive their authority from four main Acts of Parliament; these are the Exchequer and Audit Department Acts 1866 and 1921, the National Audit (NAO) Act 1983 and the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. These pieces of legislation govern the NAO's access to personal data held by HMRC. The legislation is already available in the public domain.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of child benefit recipients' potential vulnerability to identity theft following the loss of their personal records by HM Revenue and Customs; what steps his Department has taken to guard against that risk. [167680]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced a review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the child benefit data missing from HM Revenue and Customs carried a protective *(a)* marking and *(b)* classification. [167686]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* As the location of the data is the subject of police investigation, it would be inappropriate to publicly divulge any details of the appearance of the CDs at this stage.

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many HM Revenue and Customs officials had permission to copy onto a computer disc a full copy of HMRC's data on the payment of child benefits as at 18 October 2007. [167773]

(2) pursuant to his oral statement of 20 November 2007, whether the same HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) official provided the National Audit Office with a full copy of HMRC's data in relation to the payment of child benefit in *(a)* March 2007 and *(b)* October 2007. [167847]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answers 26 November 2007]:* There is an ongoing Metropolitan Police Service investigation and an independent review of HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling led by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of families in Peterborough constituency whose personal data relating to their child benefit claims has been lost by HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [167917]

**Jane Kennedy:** The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients: including those in Peterborough constituency.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by local authority and parliamentary constituency are published as part of National Statistics and can be found in tables 2 and 3 of Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis which are available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of HM Revenue and Customs' staff training in procedures on access to copying and dissemination of personal data. [168049]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers, will investigate HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

The review will cover the steps that should be taken to ensure any further measures are adhered to consistently by all staff.

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of those children and parents' personal details contained on the two CD-Roms lost in transit between HM Revenue and Customs and the National Audit Office on 18 October were from *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* West Yorkshire. [168188]

**Jane Kennedy:** The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients: including those in Leeds and West Yorkshire.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by local authority and parliamentary constituency are published as part of National Statistics and can be found in Tables 2 and 3 of Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis which are available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department are working on tracing the lost compact discs containing child benefit data. [168209]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Metropolitan police are conducting a full investigation in order to find the missing data. As part of their investigation, the police are leading the search of HMRC premises. HMRC staff are co-operating fully with the Metropolitan police in their ongoing searches and investigations.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of using an alternative courier to transport data from the HM Revenue and Customs to external destinations. [168224]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The loss of the discs is subject of an ongoing police investigation and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

On 13 November HMRC initiated immediate increased security.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced a review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the loss of confidential child benefit information was not made public until 20 November; whether *(a)* banks and *(b)* the Information Commissioner requested the matter not to be made public until that time; and if he will make a statement. [168247]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1110-18, on HM Revenue and Customs, how many individual records or cell fields were contained in the two missing discs. [168365]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement which the Chancellor of the Exchequer made to the House on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in North West Cambridgeshire had their personal details on the two disks which have been lost by HM Revenue and Customs. [168381]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients, including those in the North West Cambridge constituency.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by local authority and parliamentary constituency are published as part of National Statistics and can be found in tables 2 and 3 of Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis which are available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geogaug06.pdf

### Data Protection: Public Participation

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recommendations he has received from the Public-Private Forum on Identity Management; and if he will make a statement. [167989]

**Andy Burnham:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1054W.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the most recent information security guidelines were issued by *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* his Department. [167685]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* On 13 November HMRC's chairman wrote to his directors to set out rules governing the transfer of data and also wrote to all staff initiating an immediate tightening of security.

On 27 September the HM Treasury Permanent Secretary emailed all staff in the Department reminding them of their responsibilities. This covered all aspects of security.

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Ministers in his Department have responsibility for security of information held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs. [167687]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* Under the overall direction of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Exchequer Secretary is responsible for the information security in the Treasury.

Operationally, HM Revenue and Customs is independent of Ministers. The Commissioners for Revenue and Customs are answerable to Parliament through the Financial Secretary.

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168097]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury currently employs, in line with HM Government employment guidelines, the following:

*(a)* 38 EU foreign nationals (including those from the Republic of Ireland) and

*(b)* 27 non-EU foreign nationals.

### Departmental Land

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what land surplus to his Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* planning to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168857]

**Angela Eagle:** The Chancellor has no land currently surplus to the requirements of his Department.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164935]

**Angela Eagle:** As part of their responsibilities, five staff currently provide support to the special advisers to the Chief Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the Council of Economic Advisers. They provide support of a non-political nature in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Cost details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned. Office costs will be accounted for in the 2007-08 departmental annual report and accounts.

### Departmental Publicity

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167946]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him by the then Financial Secretary (John Healey) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 374W.

### Employment: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of people in the Peterborough City Council area are employed in *(a)* service industries and *(b)* manufacturing industries; and if he will make a statement. [168123]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 November 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of people in the Peterborough City Council area are employed in *(a)* service industries and *(b)* manufacturing industries. (168123)

In 2005, an estimated 84 per cent of employee jobs in Peterborough local authority area were in service industries and 12 per cent. were in manufacturing industries.

These estimates are from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI). They do not include self-employment jobs.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the ABI are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

### Game Birds

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answers of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 593W, on VAT: game and 10 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 725W, on game birds, what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the percentage of game birds shot for sport which are (i) consumed by humans and (ii) disposed of by other means; and if he will make a statement. [168407]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

During 2006 and 2007, my Department commissioned research to develop a tool to monitor the harvest of huntable birds and other bird species in the UK using data collected under existing National Gamebag Census (NGC) and Waterfowl Shooting Survey (WSS) schemes for the purposes of monitoring UK bag statistics, in particular for species whose European conservation status is considered unfavourable. The research found that the NGC and WSS have the potential to monitor bags of 21 out of 27 huntable species and has the potential to monitor all 11 pest species. The tool needs further refinement before it could be used to monitor hunting bags.

A report by the Public and Corporate Economic Consultants in 2006 estimated that the total number of gamebirds and wildfowl shot for sport in 2004 was just under 19 million, almost four fifths of these were pheasants and 99 per cent. was destined for the food chain. A small percentage of birds may not pass as fit for human consumption under EU food hygiene regulations which came into force on 1 January 2006.

### Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167924]

**Angela Eagle:** No officials in the Treasury or its agencies have private health insurance as part of their employment package.

### Invest to Save Budget: Cost Effectiveness

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the value for money of the Invest to Save programme. [168292]

**Andy Burnham:** A review of the Invest to Save Budget: An Innovation Fund for Public Services was published on 24 July 2007 with a chapter on the value for money of the Invest to Save Budget (ISB) portfolio.

A copy of the review can be found in the House Library.

### Migrant Workers: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of inward migration on *(a)* economic activity and *(b)* the labour market in Peterborough constituency over the last 10 years. [168765]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 November 2007:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on economic activity and the labour market in the Peterborough parliamentary constituency. (168765)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the main summary indicator of economic activity in the UK. Because data collection, estimation and reporting are not structured according to demographic groups, the national accounts framework does not however make it possible to identify the direct contribution of immigrants to the measured levels of economic activity.

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics for labour supply indicators for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the above surveys. The National Statistics method for estimating the

number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

When interpreting these figures, it is important also to bear in mind that the LFS and APS are not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

The annual LFS and APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 14 November 2007, which are based on latest population estimates.

The table attached, shows the numbers of employed, unemployed and economically active persons of working age who were not born in the UK and were resident in Peterborough constituency, for the twelve month periods ending in February for 2001 to 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the twelve month periods ending in March 2005, March 2006 and December 2006 from the APS (the January to December 2006 APS dataset is the most recent for which information on country of birth is currently available). The table also shows the numbers of non-UK born economically active persons as percentages of all economically active persons of working age, in the area. Data on country of birth are not available on annual LFS datasets before 2000.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Estimates of change over time should be treated with particular caution.

*Economic activity status of working age[1] non-UK born people in the Peterborough constituency*

*Thousands*

| *12 months ending* | *Employment level* | *Unemployment level* | *Economically active* | *Non-UK born economically actives as percentage of all economically actives (Percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| February 2001 | 4 | * | 4 | 10 |
| February 2002 | 5 | — | 5 | 11 |
| February 2003 | 5 | * | 5 | 11 |
| February 2004 | 6 | — | 6 | 13 |
| March 2005 | 7 | * | 7 | 16 |
| March 2006 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 17 |
| December 2006 | 10 | 1 | 11 | 25 |

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59
* Sample size too small to provide estimate.
— Estimate less than 500

*Notes:*
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS gives an undercount because:
it excludes certain people who have not been resident in the UK for six months.
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).
it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.
microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

*Source:*
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

## Public Expenditure

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total block grant allocated to *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Northern Ireland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* comparable Government spending on services in England was in each year since 2001-02. [167900]

**Andy Burnham:** Departmental expenditure limits of all UK Departments and the devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for the years 2001-02 to 2007-08 are set out in table 1.12 of the 2007 edition of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses. Spending totals relating to comparable services in England are not published. The comparability factors for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are published in annex C of the Treasury publication Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly: Statement of Funding Policy. This was first published in 1999 and has been updated in each spending review.

## Revenue and Customs

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer further to his statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-18, on HM Revenue and Customs, whether he intends to publish the advice he received from the Information Commissioner. [168053]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer received advice from the Information Commissioner at their meeting on 15 November. The Information Commissioner did not provide written advice.

## Tax Yields: Offshore Industry

**Mr. Doran:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect of decommissioning North sea oil and gas platforms and other infrastructure on tax revenues over the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15 and *(d)* 20 years. [167778]

**Angela Eagle:** The Government's forecast for North sea tax revenues take into account an assessment of the expected impact of decommissioning. Overall estimates of the cost of decommissioning vary, however the eventual monetary and tax cost is likely to be significant. This will in due course give rise to a downward impact on North sea revenues. However the impact of this will be spread over a large number of years and with the significant remaining potential of the North sea the UK will continue to benefit from our national natural resources for a considerable time.

## HEALTH

### Abortion

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of conceptions which ended in terminations in each year from 1990 to 2000. [168914]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is set out in the following table:

*Annual statistics on abortions as a percentage of all conceptions (England and Wales) for each year from 1990 to 2000*

| | Conceptions— all ages | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Total (000)* | *Percentage ending in abortion* |
| 1990 | 871.5 | 19.9 |
| 1991 | 853.6 | 19.3 |
| 1992 | 828.0 | 19.3 |
| 1993 | 819.0 | 19.2 |
| 1994 | 801.6 | 19.5 |
| 1995 | 790.3 | 19.7 |
| 1996 | 816.9 | 20.8 |
| 1997 | 800.4 | 21.3 |
| 1998 | 797.0 | 22.3 |
| 1999 | 774.0 | 22.6 |
| 2000 | 767.0 | 22.7 |

### Accident and Emergency Services: NHS Direct

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made any assessment of the impact of NHS Direct on the *(a)* number and *(b)* appropriateness of accident and emergency attendances. [166443]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Less than 10 per cent. of the total number who call NHS direct and only 8 per cent. of those with symptoms are advised currently to attend accident and emergency. Nearly half (47 per cent.) of all calls to NHS Direct are completed within NHS Direct meaning that the patient does not need to seek help or treatment elsewhere.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many under 14 year olds were treated for alcohol-related health problems in the last 12 months, broken down by strategic health authority. [163165]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information is provided in the following table.

*All diagnoses count of finished admission episodes for under 14 years olds with alcohol specific conditions by strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment—national health service hospitals, 2005-06*

| | *Strategic health authority of treatment* | *Finished admission episodes with alcohol specific conditions* | *All finished admission episodes* | *Alcohol Specific Episodes as a percentage of all episodes* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q01 | Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA | 31 | 66,750 | 0.05 |
| Q02 | Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA | 19 | 38,559 | 0.05 |
| Q03 | Essex SHA | 30 | 37,716 | 0.08 |
| Q04 | North West London SHA | 30 | 62,277 | 0.05 |
| Q05 | North Central London SHA | 32 | 64,663 | 0.05 |
| Q06 | North East London SHA | 18 | 57,064 | 0.03 |
| Q07 | South East London SHA | 26 | 51,605 | 0.05 |
| Q08 | South West London SHA | 32 | 46,749 | 0.07 |
| Q09 | Northumberland, Tyne Wear SHA | 63 | 57,429 | 0.11 |
| Q10 | County Durham and Tees Valley SHA | 57 | 43,599 | 0.13 |
| Q11 | North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA | 58 | 40,547 | 0.14 |
| Q12 | West Yorkshire SHA | 64 | 73,871 | 0.09 |
| Q13 | Cumbria and Lancashire SHA | 128 | 57,883 | 0.22 |
| Q14 | Greater Manchester SHA | 139 | 107,048 | 0.13 |
| Q15 | Cheshire and Merseyside SHA | 106 | 82,585 | 0.13 |
| Q16 | Thames Valley SHA | 52 | 67,752 | 0.08 |
| Q17 | Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA | 37 | 52,952 | 0.07 |
| Q18 | Kent and Medway SHA | 37 | 44,491 | 0.08 |
| Q19 | Surrey and Sussex SHA | 61 | 69,315 | 0.09 |
| Q20 | Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA | 46 | 73,461 | 0.06 |
| Q21 | South West Peninsula SHA | 53 | 48,410 | 0.11 |
| Q22 | Dorset and Somerset SHA | 25 | 28,908 | 0.09 |
| Q23 | South Yorkshire SHA | 51 | 55,921 | 0.09 |
| Q24 | Trent SHA | 34 | 62,900 | 0.05 |
| Q25 | Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA | 20 | 47,934 | 0.04 |
| Q26 | Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA | 68 | 47,847 | 0.14 |
| Q27 | Birmingham and the Black Country SHA | 83 | 102,793 | 0.08 |
| Q28 | West Midlands South SHA | 41 | 41,692 | 0.10 |
| Total | | 1,441 | 1,632,721 | 0.09 |

*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics, the Information Centre for health and social care

### Ambulance Services: NHS Direct

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS ambulance trusts have call centres integrated with NHS Direct. [166446]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** There are six NHS Direct call centres co-located with ambulance control rooms. NHS Direct is working with other services, including ambulance trusts, to increase partnership working.

### Cirencester Hospital

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 267W, on Cirencester Hospital, when he expects to announce the decision on an independent sector provider contract for Cirencester Hospital. [167761]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The proposed scheme for the Avon, Gloucester and Wiltshire area, which currently includes Cirencester hospital as a potential site for services, is proceeding through the phase 2 procurement process. The Department has recently concluded discussions with the national health service with regard to the final specifications of the scheme with the aim of ensuring that health care services are effective, accessible and responsive to local needs.

The Department will conclude decisions on the remaining phase 2 schemes no later than end of March 2008. Announcements on any contracted provider will be made once the scheme has received all the necessary approvals.

### Dental Services: Ribble Valley

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents of *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire are currently registered with an NHS dentist. [168935]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The information is not available in the requested format. Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a dentist to receive national health service care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period, for that area. Information is available at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) area in England, but not at constituency level.

In the East Lancashire PCT 164,213 patients were seen over a 24-month period ending 31 March 2007; 111,291 adults and 52,922 children.

In the north west SHA 4,090,077 patients were seen over a 24-month period ending 31 March 2007; 2,993,028 adults and 1,097,049 children.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168747]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department is compliant with IS027001 the International Standards Organisation standard on information security management systems which replaced BS7799.

The Department is currently being assessed for continued compliance with the standard under the terms by which compliance is assured.

### Departmental Property

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164371]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Spend by the Department in the financial years from 2002-03 has been:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 0 |
| 2003-04 | 1,113,565 |
| 2004-05 | 963,974 |
| 2005-06 | 5,033,305 |
| 2006-07 | 3,520,407 |

### Diabetes

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to improve the lives of those with diabetes since 1997. [167898]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* In December 2001 the Department published the "Diabetes National Service Framework" (NSF). This set out 12 National Standards for diabetes in the areas of prevention, identification, education and treatment and was put in place to raise the quality of services for people with diabetes.

The standards were followed by the "National Service Framework: Delivery Strategy". Published in January 2003, the Delivery Strategy provides a vision of what services should be in place by 2013, and what steps will be necessary to deliver those services.

The national diabetes support team (NDST) was established in 2003. This has been a successful mechanism for the delivery of the NSF, providing support to local services through its regional programme managers and developing tools and resources that can be used nationally.

Dr. Sue Roberts was appointed national clinical director to lead on implementation of the National Service Framework. Dr. Roberts works closely with colleagues in the Department and the NDST to spread good practice and provide professional leadership at a national level.

The introduction of the new Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) as part of the general practitioner contract had led to the diagnosis of around 200,000 extra people in the last two years. This means that these people are now able to access the care, advice and treatment they need to enable them to manage their diabetes more effectively and reduce their risk of complications. The QOF also measures achievement of key clinical indicators for people with diabetes, such as HbA1c, blood pressure and cholesterol levels. This has also shown improvements in the management of diabetes over the last three years.

The Department works together with the NDST and other organisations such as Diabetes UK to provide the

national health service with tools and guidance to support them in improving local services for people with diabetes. This includes a Diabetes Commissioning Toolkit, care planning guidance and a report on improving services for children and young people with diabetes.

Patient education is key to empowering people with diabetes to be partners in their own care. The number of sites offering good quality structured education is increasing, but the 2007 "Healthcare Commission survey of people with diabetes" showed that only 11 per cent., of people with diabetes have accessed patient education. We are supporting the spread of these programmes through our patient education guidance, which outlines the elements necessary for developing high-quality patient education programmes and highlights best practice to enable local services to meet the recommendations in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance and NSF.

The fourth NSF progress report "The Way Ahead: The Local Challenge" was published in March 2007 and highlights progress made in the four years following the publication of the delivery strategy. The report highlights the progress that frontline NHS staff have made in improving diabetes services, and provides examples of best practice. A copy has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_072812

### Drugs: Patents

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many British companies hold the patents to drugs that have no generic alternative. [165195]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

From the databases which record patent data, it is not possible to determine which patents, for products having pharmaceutical properties, have resulted in drugs which have been put on sale in the market place. It is also not possible from these databases to tell whether a generic equivalent of a patented drug is available. While a patent remains in force, it is unlikely that a generic alternative will be available.

### General Practitioners

**Frank Cook:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the costs and benefits of GPs with special interests. [168353]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** No assessment has been made centrally of the costs and benefits of general practitioners (GPs) with special interests. It is for local health commissioners, both primary care trusts and practice-based commissioners, to determine which local services - including services provided by GPs with a special interest will best meet the needs of their local populations within the resources available to them, and to fund these services accordingly. The development of GPs with special interests has expanded the range of options available to local commissioners.

### General Practitioners: Manpower

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners there are for each 100,000 of the population in each *(a)* region and *(b)* primary care trust area. [167918]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* This information is shown in the following table.

*General Medical Practitioners (excluding GP Retainers and GP Registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population by Primary Care Trust—England*

| | | | *Number (headcount)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)* | *GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population* |
| *England* | | | 33,091 | 65.3 |
| Q30 | *North East* | | 1,815 | 70.9 |
| | 5ND | County Durham PCT | 345 | 69.0 |
| | 5J9 | Darlington PCT | 70 | 70.6 |
| | 5KF | Gateshead PCT | 134 | 70.0 |
| | 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | 59 | 65.5 |
| | 5KM | Middlesbrough PCT | 94 | 68.3 |
| | 5D7 | Newcastle PCT | 176 | 63.7 |
| | 5D8 | North Tyneside PCT | 141 | 73.3 |
| | TAC | Northumberland Care Trust | 311 | 99.9 |
| | 5QR | Redcar and Cleveland PCT | 89 | 64.2 |
| | 5KG | South Tyneside PCT | 100 | 66.1 |
| | 5E1 | Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT | 115 | 61.6 |
| | 5KL | Sunderland Teaching PCT | 181 | 63.8 |
| Q31 | *North West* | | 4,392 | 63.8 |
| | 5HG | Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 171 | 55.8 |
| | 5CC | Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 83 | 59.2 |
| | 5HP | Blackpool PCT | 88 | 61.6 |

*General Medical Practitioners (excluding GP Retainers and GP Registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population by Primary Care Trust—England*

| | | | Number (headcount) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) | GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population |
| | 5HQ | Bolton PCT | 168 | 63.3 |
| | 5JX | Bury PCT | 119 | 64.9 |
| | 5NP | Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 286 | 63.9 |
| | 5NG | Central Lancashire PCT | 261 | 58.0 |
| | 5NE | Cumbria PCT | 378 | 75.8 |
| | 5NH | East Lancashire PCT | 221 | 57.9 |
| | 5NM | Halton and St. Helens PCT | 170 | 57.6 |
| | 5NQ | Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 127 | 61.5 |
| | 5J4 | Knowsley PCT | 81 | 54.2 |
| | 5NL | Liverpool PCT | 321 | 71.7 |
| | 5NT | Manchester PCT | 306 | 69.4 |
| | 5NF | North Lancashire PCT | 201 | 62.0 |
| | 5J5 | Oldham PCT | 125 | 57.0 |
| | 5F5 | Salford PCT | 154 | 71.2 |
| | 5NJ | Sefton PCT | 170 | 60.5 |
| | 5F7 | Stockport PCT | 186 | 66.0 |
| | 5LH | Tameside and Glossop PCT | 131 | 53.0 |
| | 5NR | Trafford PCT | 129 | 60.5 |
| | 5J2 | Warrington PCT | 117 | 60.1 |
| | 5NN | Western Cheshire PCT | 174 | 74.8 |
| | 5NK | Wirral PCT | 225 | 71.9 |
| Q32 | *Yorkshire and the Humber* | | 3,386 | 66.9 |
| | 5JE | Barnsley PCT | 133 | 59.9 |
| | 5NY | Bradford and Airedale PCT | 369 | 76.1 |
| | 5J6 | Calderdale PCT | 112 | 57.4 |
| | 5N5 | Doncaster PCT | 170 | 58.7 |
| | 5NW | East Riding of Yorkshire PCT | 190 | 58.0 |
| | 5NX | Hull PCT | 156 | 62.6 |
| | 5N2 | Kirklees PCT | 250 | 63.4 |
| | 5N1 | Leeds PCT | 500 | 69.1 |
| | 5AN | North East Lincolnshire PCT | 96 | 60.5 |
| | 5EF | North Lincolnshire PCT | 96 | 62.6 |
| | 5NV | North Yorkshire and York PCT | 554 | 72.1 |
| | 5H8 | Rotherham PCT | 145 | 57.3 |
| | 5N4 | Sheffield PCT | 381 | 73.2 |
| | 5N3 | Wakefield District PCT | 234 | 73.0 |
| Q33 | *East Midlands* | | 2,570 | 60.1 |
| | 5ET | Bassetlaw PCT | 62 | 56.0 |
| | 5N7 | Derby City PCT | 159 | 68.0 |
| | 5N6 | Derbyshire County PCT | 452 | 63.3 |
| | 5PC | Leicester City PCT | 154 | 53.5 |
| | 5PA | Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT | 374 | 56.2 |
| | 5N9 | Lincolnshire PCT | 403 | 59.2 |
| | 5PD | Northampton PCT | 389 | 59.7 |
| | 5EM | Nottingham City PCT | 183 | 65.7 |
| | 5N8 | Nottinghamshire County PCT | 394 | 60.4 |

*General Medical Practitioners (excluding GP Retainers and GP Registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population by Primary Care Trust—England*

| | | | *GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)* | *Number (headcount) GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q34 | *West Midlands* | | 3,390 | 63.2 |
| | 5PG | Birmingham East and North PCT | 236 | 59.5 |
| | 5MD | Coventry Teaching PCT | 196 | 64.4 |
| | 5PE | Dudley PCT | 187 | 61.2 |
| | 5MX | Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 176 | 66.0 |
| | 5CN | Herefordshire PCT | 137 | 76.6 |
| | 5PH | North Staffordshire PCT | 117 | 55.7 |
| | 5PF | Sandwell PCT | 186 | 65.0 |
| | 5M2 | Shropshire County PCT | 205 | 70.9 |
| | TAM | Solihull Care Trust | 134 | 66.7 |
| | 5M1 | South Birmingham PCT | 263 | 77.9 |
| | 5PK | South Staffordshire PCT | 343 | 57.3 |
| | 5PJ | Stoke on Trent PCT | 144 | 58.5 |
| | 5MK | Telford and Wrekin PCT | 97 | 60.0 |
| | 5M3 | Walsall Teaching PCT | 132 | 52.1 |
| | 5PM | Warwickshire PCT | 315 | 59.0 |
| | 5MV | Wolverhampton City PCT | 133 | 55.5 |
| | 5PL | Worcestershire PCT | 389 | 70.0 |
| Q35 | *East of England* | | 3,568 | 64.4 |
| | 5P2 | Bedfordshire PCT | 258 | 64.9 |
| | 5PP | Cambridgeshire PCT | 394 | 66.9 |
| | 5P3 | East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 317 | 61.1 |
| | 5PR | Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 141 | 68.0 |
| | 5GC | Luton PCT | 101 | 54.6 |
| | 5PX | Mid Essex PCT | 225 | 63.0 |
| | 5PQ | Norfolk PCT | 501 | 68.5 |
| | 5PW | North East Essex PCT | 181 | 59.3 |
| | 5PN | Peterborough PCT | 94 | 58.9 |
| | 5P1 | South East Essex PCT | 205 | 62.9 |
| | 5PY | South West Essex PCT | 230 | 59.8 |
| | 5PT | Suffolk PCT | 399 | 69.1 |
| | 5PV | West Essex PCT | 173 | 63.3 |
| | 5P4 | West Hertfordshire PCT | 349 | 65.9 |
| Q36 | *London* | | 4,868 | 64.8 |
| | 5C2 | Barking and Dagenham PCT | 75 | 45.6 |
| | 5A9 | Barnet PCT | 218 | 66.1 |
| | TAK | Bexley Care Trust | 98 | 44.5 |
| | 5K5 | Brent Teaching PCT | 194 | 71.8 |
| | 5A7 | Bromley PCT | 198 | 65.6 |
| | 5K7 | Camden PCT | 156 | 69.0 |
| | 5C3 | City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 178 | 82.1 |
| | 5K9 | Croydon PCT | 221 | 64.5 |
| | 5HX | Ealing PCT | 185 | 61.3 |
| | 5C1 | Enfield PCT | 159 | 56.7 |
| | 5A8 | Greenwich Teaching PCT | 118 | 51.7 |
| | 5H1 | Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 102 | 56.7 |
| | 5C9 | Haringey Teaching PCT | 150 | 66.8 |
| | 5K6 | Harrow PCT | 140 | 65.4 |

*General Medical Practitioners (excluding GP Retainers and GP Registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population by Primary Care Trust—England*

*Number (headcount)*

| | | | GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) | GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5A4 | Havering PCT | 124 | 54.8 |
| | 5AT | Hillingdon PCT | 143 | 56.7 |
| | 5HY | Hounslow PCT | 122 | 57.4 |
| | 5K8 | Islington PCT | 140 | 76.7 |
| | 5LA | Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 110 | 56.1 |
| | 5A5 | Kingston PCT | 113 | 73.8 |
| | 5LD | Lambeth PCT | 228 | 84.7 |
| | 5LF | Lewisham PCT | 179 | 72.3 |
| | 5C5 | Newham PCT | 181 | 73.5 |
| | 5NA | Redbridge PCT | 123 | 48.9 |
| | 5M6 | Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 118 | 63.4 |
| | 5LE | Southwark PCT | 187 | 72.6 |
| | 5M7 | Sutton and Merton PCT | 260 | 69.8 |
| | 5C4 | Tower Hamlets PCT | 151 | 70.8 |
| | 5NC | Waltham Forest PCT | 149 | 66.5 |
| | 5LG | Wandsworth PCT | 198 | 70.4 |
| | 5LC | Westminster PCT | 150 | 61.4 |
| Q37 | *South East Coast* | | 2,684 | 63.9 |
| | 5LQ | Brighton and Hove City PCT | 169 | 66.3 |
| | 5P7 | East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT | 215 | 66.2 |
| | 5QA | Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 427 | 59.8 |
| | 5P8 | Hastings and Rother PCT | 105 | 60.7 |
| | 5L3 | Medway PCT | 133 | 53.0 |
| | 5P5 | Surrey PCT | 717 | 67.4 |
| | 5P9 | West Kent PCT | 384 | 58.6 |
| | 5P6 | West Sussex PCT | 534 | 69.9 |
| Q38 | *South Central* | | 2,611 | 66.0 |
| | 5QG | Berkshire East PCT | 232 | 61.2 |
| | 5QF | Berkshire West PCT | 302 | 67.9 |
| | 5QD | Buckinghamshire PCT | 315 | 63.6 |
| | 5QC | Hampshire PCT | 799 | 63.4 |
| | 5QT | Isle of Wight PCT | 87 | 62.1 |
| | 5CQ | Milton Keynes PCT | 141 | 63.0 |
| | 5QE | Oxford PCT | 455 | 75.5 |
| | 5FE | Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 116 | 61.2 |
| | 5L1 | Southampton City PCT | 164 | 73.9 |
| Q39 | *South West* | | 3,807 | 75.0 |
| | 5FL | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 127 | 73.1 |
| | 5QN | Bournemouth and Poole PCT | 233 | 77.5 |
| | 5QJ | Bristol PCT | 327 | 82.1 |
| | 5QP | Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 396 | 76.2 |
| | 5QQ | Devon PCT | 602 | 82.4 |
| | 5QM | Dorset PCT | 300 | 74.8 |
| | 5QH | Gloucestershire PCT | 399 | 69.4 |
| | 5M8 | North Somerset PCT | 128 | 65.6 |
| | 5F1 | Plymouth Teaching PCT | 188 | 76.4 |
| | 5QL | Somerset PCT | 409 | 79.3 |

*General Medical Practitioners (excluding GP Retainers and GP Registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population by Primary Care Trust—England*

| | | | Number (headcount) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) | GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population |
| | 5A3 | South Gloucestershire PCT | 170 | 68.5 |
| | 5K3 | Swindon PCT | 123 | 64.8 |
| | TAL | Torbay Care Trust | 101 | 76.1 |
| | 5QK | Wiltshire PCT | 304 | 68.1 |

[1] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP Providers and GP Others.

*Note:*

GMP data as at 30 September 2006

*Sources:*

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics Resident Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics

### General Practitioners: NHS Direct

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact of NHS Direct on demand for GP out-of-hours services in those areas where NHS Direct *(a)* is and *(b)* is not integrated with GP out-of-hours services; with how many GP out-of-hours providers NHS Direct is integrated; and if he will make a statement. [166448]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Out-of-hours services are commissioned by primary care trusts and do not form part of the national services commissioned by the Department from NHS Direct. Further information may be available from the Chairman of NHS Direct NHS Trust.

### Health Services: Speech Impaired

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training is provided to general practitioners in identifying and treating children with a speech, language or communication disability. [167613]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Government do not specify the content of the general practitioner (GP) training curriculum. This is the job of the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB), which is the competent authority for postgraduate medical training in the United Kingdom. PMETB is an independent professional body.

PMETB has recently approved a new curriculum for postgraduate general practice training developed by the Royal College of General Practitioners to accompany the introduction of new training programmes in August 2007 as part of the Modernising Medical Careers reforms, available at:

www.rcgp-curriculum.org.uk

This should incorporate all the various requirements for training as a GP—any comments on the curriculum should be addressed to PMETB or the college.

### Health Services: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has a traffic light assessment, or other risk monitoring, system in place for individual NHS trusts to monitor performance against targets that patients should wait no more than 18 weeks for treatment. [165693]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department publishes performance information on 18 weeks on [www.gnn.gov.uk]. The performance information is regularly reviewed with strategic health authorities as part of routine management discussions.

### Heart Diseases: Transplant Surgery

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people are on the waiting list for heart transplant surgery; [168321]

(2) how many heart transplants were carried out in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [168322]

**Ann Keen:** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* On 22 November 2007, 78 people were registered on the heart transplant list.

The number of heart transplants carried out is shown in the following table.

*Number of heart only transplants performed in the UK, by year*

| | Number of heart only transplants performed |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 165 |
| 2005 | 147 |
| 2006 | 156 |

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of hearts removed from donors *(a)* were transplanted into recipients, *(b)* reached their destination hospital within the safe limit of ischaemic time and *(c)* were not transplanted into recipients, in the latest period for which figures are available; [168323]

(2) what percentage of donor hearts were found to be diseased or otherwise defective prior to transplantation in the latest period for which figures are available. [168324]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The three most common reasons for not retrieving the heart were poor function (40 per cent.), donor unsuitable—past history (17 per cent.) and no suitable recipients (12 per cent.). Overall 734 of the 1,044 hearts (70 per cent.) not retrieved were not retrieved due to medical issues with the organ or donor (50 per cent. of all hearts offered). This is shown in the following table.

The reasons given for not transplanting 14 hearts, which were retrieved, were: donor unsuitable—past history (four), poor function (three), transport difficulties (two), unknown (two), organ damaged (one), donor unsuitable—age (one) and donor unsuitable—size (one).

There is no official 'safe' length of ischaemia time for donor hearts, but it is generally accepted that ischaemia times should be kept under four hours wherever possible. For adult deceased heartbeating donor hearts offered for transplant, 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2007, 70 per cent. of ischaemia times were four hours or less, 86 per cent. were 4.5 hours or less, 96 per cent. were five hours or less.

*Note:*

Ischaemia times relates to the time the heart is reperfused in the recipient, not to the time the heart arrives at the destination hospital.

*Final outcome of UK adult deceased heartbeating donor hearts offered for transplant, 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2007*

| *Financial year* | *Hearts offered, not retrieved*[1] | | *Hearts retrieved, not transplanted* | | *Hearts transplanted* | | *Total hearts offered* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* |
| 2004-05 | 342 | 69 | 3 | 1 | 151 | 30 | 496 |
| 2005-06 | 361 | 73 | 4 | 1 | 127 | 26 | 492 |
| 2006-07 | 341 | 70 | 7 | 1 | 137 | 28 | 485 |
| Total | 1,044 | 71 | 14 | 1 | 415 | 28 | 1,473 |

[1] Includes hearts offered for transplant but subsequently retrieved for heart valves only.

*Note:*

Includes hearts declined for transplant and subsequently used for research.

## Hip Replacement: Waiting Lists

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for hip replacement operations in *(a)* Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust and *(b)* London NHS trusts. [167314]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested can be found in the following table.

*Count of finished admission episodes (FAE) and mean and median time waited for hip replacements where strategic health authority was London by provider data for NHS hospitals England for 2005-06*

| *Provider code* | *Provider code description* | *Total admission episodes* | *Median time waited* |
|---|---|---|---|
| NTS 314 | BUPA Roding Hospital | 27 | [1]— |
| RAL | Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust | 170 | 168 |
| RAN | Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust | 475 | 92 |
| RAP | North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | 124 | 191 |
| RAS | The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust | 220 | 134 |
| RAX | Kingston Hospital NHS Trust | 173 | 12 |
| RC3 | Ealing Hospital NHS Trust | 118 | 54 |
| RF4 | Barking, Havering And Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust | 644 | 166 |
| RFW | West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust | 100 | [1]— |
| RG2 | Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust | 272 | 181 |
| RG3TC | Orpington Treatment Centre | 223 | 122 |
| RG3-X | Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust | 328 | 193 |
| RGC | Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust | 247 | 179 |
| RGZ | Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust | 264 | 167 |
| RJ1 | Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust | 348 | 153 |
| RJ2 | The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust | 189 | [1]— |
| RJ5 | St Mary's NHS Trust | 73 | 173 |
| RJ6 | Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust | 124 | 118 |
| RJ7 | St George's Healthcare NHS Trust | 171 | 145 |
| RJZ | King's College Hospital NHS Trust | 217 | 159 |
| RKE | The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust | 132 | 149 |
| RNH | Newham University Hospital NHS Trust | 103 | 140 |
| RNJ | Barts and the London NHS Trust | 220 | 139 |
| RQM | Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust | 250 | 85 |
| RQN | Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust | 493 | 135 |
| RQX | Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 43 | 79 |
| RRV | University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 224 | 123 |
| RV8 | North west London Hospitals NHS Trust | 338 | 127 |
| RVL | Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust | 461 | 172 |
| RVRTC | South west London Elective Orthopaedic Centre | 985 | 165 |
| RVR-X | Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust | 236 | 15 |

[1] There was no time waited data available. This may be due to poor recording of the admission date and/or decision to admit date.

*Note:*

*FAE* A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*Data Quality*

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

*Main Operation*

The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g. time waited, but the figures for 'all operations' count of episodes give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.

OPCS 4.2 codes used: W37, W38, W39, W46, W47, W48

*Time Waited (days)*

Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.

*Source:*

(HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

## HIV Infection: Drugs

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many HIV/AIDS drug patents are held by British companies. [162203]

**Ian Pearson:** I have been asked to reply.

There are 125 patents for different HIV/AIDS drugs held by UK based companies. These include subsidiaries of foreign companies which have a corporate address in the United Kingdom.

## Incontinence: Medical Equipment

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reason his Department proposes to decrease the number of sub-categories within the classification system for Part IX of the drug tariff; what account was taken of the balance of responses to the Department's recent consultation on the subject; and if he will make a statement; [164554]

(2) what the cost of the two year consultation relating to Part IX of the Drug Tariff was; and what the cost was of Deloitte and Touche's fees for work on the consultation. [164616]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The current listing of stoma and incontinence appliances in part IX of the Drug Tariff is very broad.

The November 2006 consultation set out proposals which classified the 5,000 plus stoma and incontinence items into 288 sub-categories of appliances deemed by healthcare professionals to meet similar medical need.

Responses were reviewed by representatives from the original group of healthcare professionals and a wider group. This allowed two groups of specialists to be set up: one to review urology items and one to review stoma. As part of the review process, the panels again considered whether items met similar medical need—and product features such as size and material.

Based on the recommendations from these healthcare professionals, the Department now proposes that there should be 228 sub-categories of items as opposed to the 288 that were consulted on in November 2006.

The cost of the review is part of the Department's ongoing operational budget. Deloitte are acting as advisors to the Department on this review. The contract between the Department and its adviser is an ongoing arrangement set up within the parameters of public sector procurement and is commercial in confidence.

## Influenza: Vaccination

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* courses of antivirals and *(b)* doses of A/H5N1 vaccine were used for the prophylaxis of those potentially exposed to avian influenza infection in the (i) Essex A/H5N1 quarantine incident in 2005, (ii) the Fife A/H5N1 incident in 2006, (iii) the Norfolk A/H7N3 incident in 2006, (iv) the Suffolk A/H5N1 incident in 2007, (v) the North Wales A/H7N2 incident in 2007 and (vi) the Norfolk A/H5N1 incident in 2007; and what the average dosage was per person. [166437]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The following table shows, for each outbreak, the number of people to whom courses of the antiviral oseltamivir (tamiflu) were administered. The standard course for prophylactic treatment with oseltamivir is 75 mgs once a day for ten days. In the outbreaks of avian flu, a range of dose regimes was used as follows:

the adult treatment dose is 75 mg twice a day for five days;

the adult prophylactic dose (post exposure) 75 mg per day for 10 days;

the adult prophylaxis dose (pre-exposure) 75 mg per day for up to 42 days (throughout period of exposure and continued until seven days after exposure); and

the dose for children depends on the weight of the child.

A/H5N1 vaccine is not used for outbreaks of avian flu. Our stockpile of vaccine is currently reserved for possible use in a human influenza pandemic.

This corrects the information given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1357.

*Number of people to whom courses of antivirals were administered*

| | *Number of people[1] given a course of antiviral prophylaxis drugs* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Incident* | *Post-exposure prophylaxis* | *Pre-exposure prophylaxis* | *Total* |
| Essex A/H5N1 quarantine incident in 2005 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Fife A/H5N1 incident in 2006 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Number of people to whom courses of antivirals were administered*

| Incident | Number of people[1] given a course of antiviral prophylaxis drugs | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Post-exposure prophylaxis* | *Pre-exposure prophylaxis* | *Total* |
| Norfolk A/H7N3 incident in 2006 (Dereham) | 8 | 134 | 142 |
| Suffolk A/H5N1 incident in 2007(Holton) | 56 | 426 | 482 |
| North Wales A/H7N2 incident in 2007 | 21 | 152 | 173 |
| Suffolk[2] A/H5N1 incident in2007(Redgrave)[3] | 29 | 146 | 175 |

[1] These figures include adults and children. Fewer than 10 children received post-exposure prophylaxis with anitiviral drugs. No children received pre-exposure prophylaxis.
[2] The incident took place in Suffolk and therefore the name of the incident given in the table is different to that listed in the question.
[3] Data as of 26 November 2007 (incident still ongoing).

### Maidstone Hospital: Clostridium

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance of the relevant strategic health authority in relation to each outbreak of *clostridium difficile* at Maidstone hospital. [168634]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The Healthcare Commission report of their Investigation into outbreaks of *clostridium difficile* at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust included an assessment of the role of the south east coast strategic health authority (SHA). It included no specific recommendations for the SHA.

### Mental Health Services: Warley

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to relocate the mental health unit at Mascalls Park, Warley to Romford. [167440]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Any proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally. As such, North East London Mental Health Trust (NELMHT) has recently conducted a full public consultation on the future of mental health services across the four boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge, and Waltham Forest.

The consultation began on 27 July and ended 19 October 2007, and we are informed that one of the key points for consultation was the future of in-patient mental health services for patients from Barking and Dagenham, and Havering, which are currently located at Mascalls Park hospital, Brentwood. The trust board will discuss the outcome of the consultation at its meeting on 27 November 2007.

### Mid Essex Primary Care Trust: Bowel Cancer

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the national bowel cancer screening programme will be implemented in the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust area; and if he will make a statement. [166245]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The NHS bowel cancer screening programme is one of the first national bowel screening programmes in the world, and the first cancer screening programme in England to invite men as well as women. It is an ambitious project, and full national roll-out is expected by December 2009.

Work in the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust area is currently ongoing and we expect implementation to be achieved by mid to late 2008. The provision of local health services is the responsibility of the local national health service organisations in conjunction with their strategic health authorities.

### Midwives: Pay

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on midwives' salaries. [167695]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Government have now submitted their evidence to the NHS Pay Review Body for the pay uplift from April 2008. This review body covers all Agenda for Change staff including midwives. It is for the review body to now consider all the issues including evidence from the unions before making their recommendations. It is not appropriate to speculate at this time what they may recommend.

Our recommendations (2 per cent. rise in headline pay for staff) are in line with the Government's public sector pay policy to ensure economic stability. We are seeking a fair award reflecting the balance between the right level of pay and the need to be vigilant against the threats of inflation.

### Milton Keynes Hospital: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many different areas of Milton Keynes hospital have been identified as requiring a deep clean; [167586]

(2) what decant area has been identified at Milton Keynes hospital to facilitate the proposed deep clean; [167587]

(3) what the estimated cost is to deep clean each area of Milton Keynes hospital proposed for a deep clean. [167588]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* As the Prime Minister made clear, deep cleaning will occur in all hospitals, starting this winter, with resources allocated through the strategic health authorities (SHAs). Each trust's deep-clean plan will vary according to local need. Trusts will agree costed deep clean plans with their lead commissioners and SHA, who will monitor performance against this plan, as per normal performance management arrangements. Foundation trusts will also be invited to agree plans and funding for additional

deep cleaning with local commissioners, together with local arrangements for checking the agreed work has been carried out. SHAs will take an overview as to progress across their area and will report to the Department.

Information on plans of individual trusts is therefore not routinely collected by the Department.

### Monitor

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanisms Monitor is held accountable to Parliament. [168570]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As set out in the National Health Service Act 2006, Monitor is held accountable to Parliament via the following mechanisms:

the regulator must prepare an annual report on how it has exercised its functions during the year. The regulator must lay a copy of the report before Parliament;

the regulator must in respect of each financial year prepare a report which provides an overall summary of the accounts of NHS Foundation Trusts. The regulator must lay a copy of the report before Parliament;

the regulator must respond in writing to any recommendation which:

is made by a Committee of either House of Parliament, or a Committee of both Houses; and

relates to the exercise by the regulator of its functions.

In addition, the regulator must exercise its functions effectively, efficiently and economically.

As the designated accounting officer of Monitor, the chairman is responsible to Parliament for all resources under his control. In his capacity as accounting officer he may be called upon to appear before the Public Accounts Committee.

### NHS Blood and Transplant: Schools

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the reasons were for setting the target for the number of schools participating in UK Transplant's Give and Let Live donor education programme for 2007-08 at 1,090; [167048]

(2) which schools have agreed to participate in UK Transplant's Give and Let Live donor education programme, broken down by local education authority; [167049]

(3) how much has been allocated to UK Transplant's Give and Let Live donor education programme for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [167050]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answers 22 November 2007]:* The target number of schools participating in the Give and Let Live donor education programme represents the 30 per cent. target that NHS blood and transplant (NHS BT) is aiming for. This 30 per cent. target was arrived at following professional advice and is considered challenging but realistic.

Details of the schools participating in the programme are held within NHS BT, in accordance with the data management statement produced in conjunction with the schools involved.

To date, approximately £260,000 has been spent on the project (2006-07 and 2007-08), which included additional set-up costs. A further £100,000 has been allocated for 2008-09. Budgets have yet to be set for 2009-10.

### NHS Direct

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of compliance amongst callers to NHS Direct with the advice they receive. [166445]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information on this is not held centrally but may be available from the Chairman of NHS Direct NHS Trust.

### NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) are *(a)* in operation, *(b)* under construction and *(c)* planned; how much has been spent on establishing ISTCs; how much is planned to be spent in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10; and what plans the Government have for the future of the ISTC programme; [167941]

(2) what funds have been allocated to compensate contractors involved in the provision of independent sector treatment centres for proposed treatment centres which will now not proceed. [167942]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* There are 23 fixed site wave 1 independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) in operation and six walk-in centres with a commuter focus. There is also a mobile ophthalmology service, a mobile MRI scanning service and a chlamydia screening service in Greater London for 16 to 24-year-olds. Five phase 2 ISTC schemes are operational, three offering elective procedures and two offering diagnostics. This includes the West Midlands diagnostics scheme which will stop providing services in February 2008. Through phase 2, services are currently being delivered through 103 fixed and mobile sites (including interim site solutions) and it is expected that an additional 13 sites will come on-stream in the coming months.

Three phase 2 schemes have been approved to move to financial close and a further seven are in procurement. Services are expected to be delivered from a number of sites, which provide greater accessibility for patients, through phase 2 schemes in procurement. As part of the mobilisation process, through wave one there are two ISTC sites and through phase 2 there are three ISTC sites which are currently under construction.

At the end of October 2007, the cost of the procurement of wave 1 and phase 2 was approximately £157 million including all assessment, scoping, procurement and associated management, professional advisory and support costs. This figure includes the cost incurred during 2007-08 (to date) of £11 million.

The Department will conclude decisions on the remaining schemes by the end of March 2008. At this stage, in terms of year by year spend in establishing (procuring, mobilising and managing) the phase 2 ISTCs schemes in procurement, it is not possible to break down the costs further, as budgets have not been agreed for coming years.

The Department will work with preferred bidders in a systematic way to consider any compensation claims that may be brought on a case by case basis, with regard to withdrawn schemes. No specific funds are allocated for this, however, the overall budget does include general contingencies for unforeseen events.

### NHS Trusts: Maidstone

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure the representation of *(a)* Maidstone and *(b)* Tunbridge Wells areas on the board of the relevant new NHS trust. [168635]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]*: The appointment of chairs and non-executive members of national health service trusts has been delegated by the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) to the Appointments Commission.

There is no requirement for executive members of a NHS trust board to be representative of the area served by the trust.

Preference will be given to people from the area served by the trust and the Commission will take account of the geographical spread of those recommended for appointment. The overarching principle, however, will be of appointment on merit. It will always be in the best interests of all of the communities served if the best available people are appointed to these important roles.

### North East Region Strategic Health Authority: Finance

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surplus was reported for the North East Region strategic health authority in 2006-07; and to what uses it was put. [167692]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: At the end of 2006-07 North East strategic health authority reported an audited £64.5 million surplus. This surplus is not lost and is available to spend in future years.

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surpluses were reported by each trust in the North East Region strategic health authority area at 31 October; and what surpluses are projected to be achieved by 31 October 2008. [167693]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: The following table shows 2007-08 quarter 1 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit) for national health service trusts in the North East strategic health authority. The Department does not have financial information relating to the 2008-09 financial year.

| *NHS Trust name* | *2007-08 Q1 Forecast outturn surplus/(Deficit) £000* |
|---|---|
| North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust | 75 |
| North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust | 10,000 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust | 0 |
| South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust | 7,000 |
| Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust | 2,120 |

*Source:*
Department of Health financial returns

### Nurses: Urological Cancers

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to change the provision of specialist nursing staff in the field of urological cancers; and if he will make a statement; [168332]

(2) how many urological cancer clinical nurse specialists were employed in each acute NHS trust in the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [168334]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]*: Data on the number of urological cancer clinical nurse specialists are not collected centrally. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has identified clinical nurse specialists as core members of the urology multidisciplinary team in their "Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancers" guidance issued in 2002. It is for cancer networks to work in partnership with strategic health authorities, NHS trusts and postgraduate deaneries to put in place a sustainable process to assess, plan and review their workforce needs and the education and training of all staff linked to local and national priorities for cancer including the implementation of NICE improving outcomes guidance.

### Paediatrics: Greater Manchester

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that the secondary paediatrics services are fully transferred to North Manchester General Hospital and fully functioning when Booth Hall Children's Hospital closes; [167043]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that the accident and emergency facility for children at North Manchester General Hospital is fully operational when Booth Hall Children's Hospital closes. [167044]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answers 22 November 2007]*: Changes to local services are a matter for local national health service organisations. The North West strategic health authority reports that NHS organisations have formed a children's programme board to lead on the important improvements to NHS care in the city of Manchester arising from the Making it Better public consultation process. This includes the transfer of services currently located at Booth Hall children's hospital.

These changes are subject to a thorough and robust planning process. Secondary care services will remain fully operational throughout the period of change, operating from the North Manchester general hospital site immediately following the closure of Booth Hall.

## Prescription Drugs

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the amount of drugs classified as wasted was in 2006, broken down by region; [167608]

(2) what guidance he has issued to GPs on over-prescribing; [167609]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of pharmacists in tackling the over-prescribing of medicines; [167610]

(4) whether there is a limit on the time for which any one medication is available on a patient's repeat prescription; [167611]

(5) what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of medicines packaging design to drug wastage; and what potential improvements are likely to be made. [167612]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Department has not quantified the amount of medicines classified as waste in 2006 nor assessed the potential contribution of medicines packaging design to drugs wastage. However, we have recently invited organisations to submit outline proposals on how to investigate the scale, costs and causes of medicines wastage.

The Department has not issued guidance to general practitioners on over-prescribing. However, primary care trusts employ prescribing advisers, often pharmacists, to encourage and secure rational and cost-effective prescribing and provide a source of advice and support for prescribers in their area.

The new contractual framework for community pharmacy supports a range of initiatives to help patients get the most from their medicines and reduce the amount of medicines wasted. Repeat dispensing is an essential service provided by all community pharmacies in England which allows prescriptions to be dispensed in instalments. Before dispensing the next instalment, the pharmacist must check with the patient that it is still needed. Medicines use reviews, an advanced service provided by accredited pharmacists in accredited premises and locally commissioned pharmacist-led full clinical medication reviews should also help to identify medicines that may no longer be required but they may also identify additional treatments that may be appropriate.

There is no legal limit for how many times a repeat prescription can be issued for a given medication before a patient review must take place. This is a decision for the prescriber to make in conjunction with their patient.

## Primary Health Care

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria will be used in deciding on the locations of the 150 new walk-in centres and 100 new GP practices announced as part of the pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review. [167903]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* As set out in the 'Our NHS, Our Future' next stage review interim report we expect the 150 health centres to be easily accessible to all members of the local population, though the precise locations of the new health centres and practices will be determined by primary care trusts based on their local needs assessment.

## Skin Cancer

**Frank Cook:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the most common state of progression of skin cancer when diagnosed by a GP. [168354]

**Dawn Primarolo:** None.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 29 November 2007*

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Support Agency

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the Child Support Agency's cases concerned a child who was between the ages of 16 and 18 years in the last period for which figures are available. [165774]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 29 November 2007:*

In reply to your parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many of the Child Support Agency's cases concerned a child who was between the ages of 16 and 18 years in the last period for which figures are available. [165774]

As at September 2007, the Agency has 269,000 assessed cases which involved at least one child between the ages of 16 and 18 years inclusive. This figure includes cases with a positive liability as well as those with a nil liability.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

### Children: Daycare

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to improve access to child care for lone parents who are being encouraged back to work. [164416]

**Caroline Flint:** We want to give lone parents the opportunity to plan a better future for themselves and their children and we know that child care availability is of vital importance to lone parents returning to work.

In June 2007 the stock of registered child care stood at over 1.28 million places, which is more than double the 1997 total, and the aim of the Government's national child care strategy for England is that by 2010 there will be a child care place for all children aged between three and 14, between the hours of 8 am to 6 pm each weekday, all year round. By that date there will be over two million sustainable child care places for children up to the age of 14. The strategy is given legislative underpinning by the Childcare Act 2006 which requires local authorities in England and Wales to secure child care to meet the needs of working parents in their areas. The Scottish Executive have committed to extending access to child care that meets the needs of working parents even though the legislative requirements of the Childcare Act do not apply there.

Every Jobcentre Plus district has a child care partnership manager (CPM), with additional resource in new deal plus for lone parent pilot areas. CPMs have a key role to play in helping to improve access to child care and overcome child care barriers to work for unemployed parents and a fundamental part of this is gathering intelligence about the local child care market and customer needs, and using it to ensure that key issues for disadvantaged parents seeking to move into work are addressed within local child care provision.

Action is under way within Jobcentre Plus to ensure that all parents, not just lone parents, are routinely informed about formal child care and its benefits by Jobcentre Plus Advisers and signposted to further help and information, for example, from Children's Information Services.

### Children: Maintenance

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that maintenance payments calculated by the Childrens Maintenance and Enforcement Commission are appropriate in respect of both parents, with particular reference to costs incurred for daytime care of children. [167184]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The principles of the basic maintenance formula under the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (C-MEC) will be based on the structure of the simpler formula introduced in 2003 with percentage rates based on the non-resident parent's income and number of qualifying children. The percentage rates strike the right balance between the needs of the child and the other expenses that non-resident parents have to meet.

A reduction in the amount of child maintenance otherwise payable will continue to apply where the non-resident parent shares the care of a qualifying child for 52 or more nights a year. The Government have no plans to take account of daytime care. Childcare costs incurred by a working parent are recognised in housing benefit, council tax benefit and working tax credit.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167377]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not available.

### Departmental ICT

**Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department pays per computer to EDS for professional services each month; and whether this sum includes call-out charges. [169209]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department for Work and Pensions realigned its contract with EDS in 2005.

Under the realigned contract, EDS owns, supplies and refreshes the equipment every three years, while the Department pays for the services it uses.

The annual service charge for a standard desktop PC is about £590 (or approximately £49 per month). This includes use and refresh of the equipment, standard software, and a comprehensive range of maintenance and support services, including call-out charges where applicable.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163982]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department's headcount as at the 30 September 2007 (date of the latest quarterly statistics provided to the Office for National Statistics) was 105,460 (full-time equivalents).

Data published for earlier quarters is available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0907.pdf.

At this stage of the Spending Review 2007 planning process, the Department does not yet have a forecast headcount available for the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165117]

**Mrs. McGuire:** This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what opinion polls the Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164945]

**Mrs. McGuire:** My Department has not conducted any opinion polls with staff since 27 June 2007. My Department has conducted the following omnibus research surveys which are outlined in the following table.

| *Project* | *Contractor* | *Purpose* | *Cost (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| NatCen Omnibus Survey (Module 1) | National Centre for Social Research | To examine attitudes to mental health and employment | 77,700 |
| NatCen Omnibus Survey (Module 2) | National Centre for Social Research | To examine attitudes to seeking psychological therapies for mental health conditions | 26,375 |
| NatCen Omnibus Survey | National Centre for Social Research | To examine attitudes to child poverty | 20,000 |
| ONS Omnibus Survey (Disability Module) | Office for National Statistics | Seeks opinion/views on a range of disability issues | 27,192 |
| Attitudes to state pensions | British Market Research Bureau | To explore attitudes to state pensions | 5,590 |

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167277]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information requested can be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

### Disability Living Allowance

**Mr. Martyn Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of disability living allowance claims were rejected in the first instance in the latest period for which figures are available; and of this percentage how many of these cases were overturned on appeal. [163330]

**Mrs. McGuire:** In 2006-07 53 per cent. of disability living allowance new claims received were unsuccessful. Information about the percentage of these cases that were overturned on appeal is not available.

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the levels of higher rate of *(a)* disability and *(b)* mobility allowance were in each year since 2002. [165977]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is in the following table.

*Disability living allowance higher rates*

£

| *As at 1 April each year* | *Highest rate care* | *Higher rate mobility* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 56.25 | 39.30 |
| 2003 | 57.20 | 39.95 |
| 2004 | 58.80 | 41.05 |
| 2005 | 60.60 | 42.30 |
| 2006 | 62.25 | 43.45 |
| 2007 | 64.50 | 45.00 |

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will give consideration to extending

winter fuel payments to include all severely disabled people in receipt of the higher rate of the mobility component of disability living allowance. [165980]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Winter fuel payments are paid to older people as a once a year lump sum payment in advance of winter heating bills. Generally, severely disabled people need help for their additional costs, which may include extra heating, all year round and not just in the winter months. Help is available for severely disabled people through the care and mobility components in disability living allowance and the disability premiums in the income-related benefits which have a substantially higher annual value than the winter fuel payment and are spread over a 52-week period. We always keep WFP under review.

### Disability Living Allowance: Ritalin

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether parents can claim disability living allowance for children with behavioural problems which require prescriptions of Ritalin; and if he will make a statement. [163187]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Entitlement to disability living allowance is not linked to particular disabling conditions, but on the extent to which a severely disabled person has personal care needs and/or walking difficulties as a result of their disability. Parents can claim disability living allowance for children with behavioural problems, including those which require prescriptions of Ritalin, as long as their disability meets the above criteria.

### Disabled: Fuel Costs

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of disability living allowance is allocated to cover extra fuel costs incurred by disabled people; [165979]

(2) in what ways his Department makes provision for the extra fuel costs incurred by high lesion spinal cord injured people requiring a minimum temperature controlled environment. [165981]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Disability living allowance is paid as a contribution towards the extra costs faced by severely disabled people as a result of their disabilities. Depending on their need for personal care, supervision or help getting around, this could include people with a high lesion spinal cord injury.

Disability living allowance is not intended to meet specific extra costs, such as fuel, and recipients are free to spend the benefit according to their own priorities and requirements.

### Influenza

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in developing arrangements for *(a)* sickness certification and *(b)* payment of benefits as preparation for dealing with any future pandemic influenza outbreak; and if he will make a statement. [164972]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The precise characteristics and impact of an influenza pandemic will only become apparent as the virus emerges, so that the pandemic threat and the UK's level of preparedness are constantly evolving. DWP continues to be involved in drawing up and revising the UK pandemic flu plan, along with other Government Departments. Plans aim for the continuation of everyday activities as far as practicable, including the availability of sick pay and state benefits.

Appropriate changes to sickness certification, which balance the interests of patients, employers and the NHS, will be introduced as and when necessary to help achieve that aim. During an influenza pandemic, DWP will aim to continue services that support people into work, but will give priority to maintaining financial support. Customer payments, which are largely automated, will continue to be paid. DWP and HMRC have robust business continuity plans in place to ensure that the administration and key services that support these payments can be maintained during a pandemic.

### Local Authorities: Equal Opportunities

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Treasury on the appropriate level of resources for local authorities in relation to their obligations under the disability equality duty. [162609]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department held discussions on this issue with the Department for Communities and Local Government (then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) as part of the development of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

We provided local authorities with an additional £11 million over the last two financial years, in line with our responsibilities under the New Burdens rules for the work which authorities were required to carry out to develop a disability equality scheme.

### Pensions: British Nationals Overseas

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients living overseas have had their state earnings related pension frozen; and how much it would cost to uprate those pensions *(a)* with and *(b)* without back payments. [169581]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** We estimate that the state earnings related pension is paid to around 110,000 overseas recipients of the UK state pension who live in countries where the pension is not uprated.

The estimated cost to uprate this element of the state pension is around 18 million in 2007-08 and it would cost around £170 million in 2007-08 if this was backdated and arrears paid.

*Note:* Estimates based on the latest available September 2006 RPWB dataset (5 per cent. administrative data sample).

### Social Security Benefits: Pensioners

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value was of attendance allowance and disability living allowance payments to people over retirement age living in the Huddersfield local authority area in *(a)* 1996 and *(b)* 2006-07. [162543]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Information about the value of attendance allowance and disability living allowance payments to people over retirement age is in the following tables.

| Kirklees local authority | Status | Year | Annual expenditure (£ million) cash terms |
|---|---|---|---|
| Attendance allowance | Outturn | 1996-97 | 15.4 |
| | Provisional outturn | 2006-07 | 21.1 |
| Disability living allowance | Outturn | 1996-97 | 8.7 |
| | Provisional outturn | 2006-07 | 22.2 |

| Kirklees local authority | Status | Year | Annual (£ million) 2007-08 prices expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|
| Attendance allowance | Outturn | 1996-97 | 20.3 |
| | Provisional outturn | 2006-07 | 21.8 |
| Disability living allowance | Outturn | 1996-97 | 11.5 |
| | Provisional outturn | 2006-07 | 23.0 |

*Notes:*
1. The 1996-97 caseloads used in the apportionment of expenditure are based on 5 per cent. samples, which have been calibrated to 100 per cent. data.
2. 100 per cent. data has been used to apportion expenditure for 2006-07.
3. All figures have been rounded to the nearest £100,000.
4. Expenditure has been converted from cash terms to 2007-08 prices using GDP deflators which were published alongside the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review.
5. All figures are consistent with the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review, as well as expenditure information published on the internet at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp.

*Source:*
Expenditure has been taken from departmental accounting systems and combined with 100 per cent. statistical data to identify the proportion of expenditure paid to people over retirement age living in Kirklees local authority.

### Social Security Benefits: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people on benefits in Peterborough constituency had been in receipt of benefits continuously for over 12 months in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* active and *(b)* inactive benefits. [165918]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is in the following table.

*Working age claimants of active or inactive benefits with a duration of over 12 months in the Peterborough parliamentary constituency, as at May each year*

| | Active benefits[1] | Inactive benefits[2] |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 3,110 | 6,100 |
| 1998 | 2,160 | 6,200 |
| 1999 | 2,000 | 6,500 |
| 2000 | 1,770 | 5,600 |
| 2001 | 1,640 | 5,700 |
| 2002 | 1,450 | 5,880 |
| 2003 | 1,740 | 5,930 |
| 2004 | 1,800 | 5,940 |
| 2005 | 1,960 | 5,740 |
| 2006 | 2,210 | 5,750 |
| 2007 | 2,280 | 5,820 |

[1] 'Active benefits' means jobseeker's allowance.
[2] 'Inactive benefits' means working age claimants of income support (income support claimants include: lone parents; sick and disabled; carers; and others), incapacity benefit (including national insurance credits only cases), and severe disablement allowance.

*Notes:*
1. Inactive benefits case loads 1997 to 1999 figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and for 2000 onwards are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Inactive benefits case loads for 1997 to 1999 have been uprated by applying 5 per cent. proportions to 100 per cent. WPLS data.
3. Active benefit case loads are rounded to the nearest 5.

*Sources:*
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample, February 1997 to 1999; Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data, February 2000 onwards; and 100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Compensation

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 121W, on armed forces: compensation, how many multiple injuries cases there were in each financial year since 2005-06. [166112]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested is not held centrally for the War Pensions Scheme and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, I am able to provide details of the number of awards made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme for multiple injuries in each year. These are shown in the following table:

*Multiple injury awards[1, 2]*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| April 2005-March 2006 | 20 |
| April 2006-March 2007 | 160 |
| April 2007-September 2007 | 100 |

[1] Data have been rounded to the nearest five.
[2] Figures show the year in which the award was made, this is not necessarily the year in which the injury/illness occurred.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the contribution that can be made to remedying homelessness by releasing void married quarters to Annington Homes. [168241]

**Derek Twigg:** None. The alternative use of surplus service families accommodation returned to Annington Homes Limited (AHL) is a matter for the company.

### Armed Forces: Manpower

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* percentage recruitment gap and *(b)* percentage change in personnel numbers of each regiment was in the latest year for which figures are available. [167886]

**Derek Twigg:** Officers are not recruited against regimental targets but against a whole Army requirement. It is only after completing officer training and commissioning that an officer joins a particular regiment.

Army recruitment targets are broken down by arm/service for soldiers. There are no recruitment targets set for the small arms school corps or the Army physical training corps because recruits are required to serve as a soldier before they are entitled to join.

The following tables provide details of army officer and soldier recruitment targets and achievement for the financial year 2006-07, and the change in Army officer and soldier full-time trained strengths between 1 April 2006 and 1 March 2007.

*Army recruitment targets and achievements during financial year 2006-07*

| *Rank* | *Arm/service* | *Recruitment target* | *Number recruited* | *Recruitment percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Officers | | 840 | 780 | 92.9 |
| Soldier | Total | 13,070 | 12,660 | 96.9 |
| | Household Cavalry | 170 | 170 | 100.0 |
| | Royal Armoured Corps | 630 | 630 | 100.0 |
| | Royal Artillery | 1,030 | 970 | 94.2 |
| | Royal Engineers | 1,370 | 1,340 | 97.8 |
| | Royal Corps of Signals | 870 | 750 | 86.2 |
| | Infantry | 4,260 | 4,310 | 101.2 |
| | Army Air Corps | 190 | 210 | 110.5 |
| | Royal Logistics Corps | 2,410 | 2,100 | 87.1 |
| | Army Medical Service | 450 | 430 | 95.6 |
| | Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers | 1,060 | 1,290 | 121.7 |
| | Adjutant General Corps | 400 | 260 | 65.0 |
| | Intelligence Corps | 160 | 160 | 100.0 |
| | Corps of Army Music | 70 | 40 | 57.1 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures for Army recruitment targets and achievement have been taken from recruiting databases and cannot therefore be compared directly to National Statistics published by the Defence Analytical Services Agency.
2. The counts of targets and achievements have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. Numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

*Army full-time trained strength (excluding Gurkhas)*

| *Rank* | *Arm/Service* | *Strength 1 April 2006* | *Strength 1 March 2007* | *Change percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Officers | Total | 14,020 | 14,180 | 1.2 |
| Soldier | Total | 83,270 | 81,760 | -1.8 |
| | Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps | 4,650 | 4,650 | -0.1 |
| | Royal Artillery | 6,270 | 5,980 | -4.9 |
| | Royal Engineers | 7,620 | 7,690 | 0.9 |
| | Royal Corps of Signals | 7,520 | 7,220 | -4.3 |
| | Infantry | 21,160 | 20,830 | -1.8 |
| | Army Air Corps | 1,480 | 1,510 | 2.0 |
| | Royal Logistics Corps | 13,990 | 13,740 | -2.0 |
| | Army Medical Service | 2,880 | 2,760 | -4.1 |
| | Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers | 8,900 | 8,780 | -1.5 |
| | Adjutant General Corps | 5,610 | 5,280 | -6.6 |
| | Small Arms School Corps | 120 | 120 | 1.6 |
| | Intelligence Corps | 1,180 | 1,200 | 1.4 |
| | Army Physical Training Corps | 410 | 400 | -2.8 |

*Army full-time trained strength (excluding Gurkhas)*

| Rank | Arm/Service | Strength 1 April 2006 | Strength 1 March 2007 | Change percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Corps of Army Music | 880 | 840 | -6.0 |
| | Long Service List | 610 | 610 | -0.7 |

*Notes:*
1. Full-time trained strength includes full-time reserve service (FTRS) figures but excludes Gurkhas.
2. Figures exclude; Gurkhas, Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, mobilised reserves, Territorial Army and other reserves.
3. Due to ongoing data validation following the introduction of the new Joint Personnel Administration (JP A) System, there is no Arm/Corps information currently available from 1 March 2007 therefore it is only possible to provide strengths data for 2006-07 from 1 April 2006 to 1 March 2007.
4. The counts of targets and achievements have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. Numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Contracts

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Land Rover has been invited to participate in the tender process for the new defence vehicle; how many vehicles are included in the tender; what the size is of the vehicle in the tender; and which companies were included in the tender process. [168644]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* It is envisaged that up to 16,000 vehicles could be procured under the Operational Utility Vehicles System (OUVS) programme to replace the in-service light utility vehicle capability currently provided by truck utility light, truck utility medium, truck utility medium (heavy duty) and truck utility heavy. The exact user requirements have yet to be fully defined, but it is expected that a range of vehicles will be required, providing payloads of between one to six tonnes.

OUVS is currently in the concept phase and an invitation to tender has not yet been issued. An expression of interest advertisement was published in both the European Official Journal and the Defence Contract Bulletin in September 2007, which has attracted over 50 responses from industry, including Land Rover.

### Bosnia: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the *(a)* Crisis Management Concept, *(b)* Military Strategic Options, *(c)* Initiating Military Directive, *(d)* Status of Forces Agreement, *(e)* Status of Mission Agreement and *(f)* Rules of Engagement for (i) Operation Althea and (ii) the EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic. [165884]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Status of mission agreements apply to civilian led missions only, and therefore do not apply to either Operation ALTHEA or the forthcoming mission to Chad and the Central African Republic as they are/will be military missions.

The forthcoming EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic is still in the planning stage and the status of forces agreement and the rules of engagement have not yet been agreed.

Operation ALTHEA followed on from the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia Herzegovina and the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) before it. As a result, United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1551 and 1574 established that the Status of Forces Agreements contained in Appendix B to Annex 1-A of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina apply with respect to the EU mission. The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina can be found on the Office of the High Representative and EU Special Representative to Bosnia Herzegovina website and on the NATO website:

http://www.ohr.int/

http://www.nato.int/

I am withholding the other information requested as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations between the United Kingdom and the European Union.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in his Department earned a salary over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167190]

**Derek Twigg:** The number of staff, including UK-based civilian staff, staff of trading fund agencies and the armed forces, earning annual basic salary of £100,000 or more is as follows:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | [1] |
| 1998-99 | [1] |
| 1999-2000 | 10-20 |
| 2000-01 | 10-20 |
| 2001-02 | 30-40 |
| 2002-03 | 40-50 |
| 2003-04 | 40-50 |
| 2004-05 | 50-60 |
| 2005-06 | 60-70 |
| 2006-07 | 100-110 |

[1] Less than 10

*Note:*
Numbers are shown in tranches to allow for slight differences in the basis for data from different payroll systems

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167382]

**Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence has only been able to record this information since 12 September 2006 when a new database was introduced. However, figures are only available for 60 per cent. of correspondence received and only for correspondence answered within 20 working days. The figures below are for correspondence received between 12 September 2006 and 31 October 2007.

41 per cent. answered substantively within five working days;

59 per cent. answered substantively within 10 working days;

85 per cent. answered substantively within 20 working days.

The MOD undertakes to answer all correspondence within 15 working days and 80 per cent. was answered substantively within that target.

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. The Report for 2006 was published by way of a written ministerial statement on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS. Information for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the calendar year.

### Departmental Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167934]

**Derek Twigg:** None. Private medical insurance does not form any part of the remuneration package offered by the Ministry of Defence or its agencies.

### Departmental Information

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised civil service code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162465]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162466]

(3) when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised civil service code. [162467]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Cabinet Office Minister for the East Midlands on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 596-97W.

### Departmental Land

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what land surplus to his Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168854]

**Derek Twigg:** A list detailing surplus sites throughout the UK that the Department is either presently selling, or intending to sell in the future, is available in the Library of the House. The list was last updated in August 2007.

### Exservicemen: Military Decorations

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans resident in Gloucestershire have applied for the Veterans badge. [168910]

**Derek Twigg:** The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency records have identified that a total of 4,128 veterans lapel badges have been issued to residents who have included Gloucestershire in their address.

### Hercules Aircraft

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the Hercules fleet have been fitted with explosive suppressant foam; and if he will make a statement. [167637]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** All Hercules aircraft that are routinely deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are now fitted with explosion suppressant foam.

I do not intend to give regular updates on progress with this programme as to do so would ultimately reveal the total number of Hercules aircraft equipped with this capability and this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the security of the UK armed forces.

### Iraq: Defence Equipment

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the availability of reconnaissance equipment for operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [167474]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The provision of intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance equipment is regularly and routinely assessed by the permanent joint headquarters in liaison with commanders in theatre. There are sufficient assets available for our current commitments. As the operational environment continues to evolve we make adjustments where necessary, including through the urgent operational requirements process. I am withholding any further information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

### Military Aircraft

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many (a) aircraft, broken down by type and (b) tanks were withdrawn from service in each year since 1997. [165066]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The following table provides details of the numbers of main battle tanks withdrawn from service with the armed forces in each year since 1997:

| Equipment | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Challenger 1 (CR1 MBT) | 0 | 0 | 14 | 74 | 90 | 88 | 96 | 53 | 8 | 3 | 0 |
| Challenger 2 (CR 2MBT) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | [1]40 | 0 |

[1] 20 CR2 MBT are being used as a source of spares. A further 20 remain in storage pending a disposal decision

I will write to the hon. Member with the corresponding information for aircraft and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

### Military Bases: Colchester

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to hand *(a)* the former Garrison Church, *(b)* the former Garrison Theatre and *(c)* the Victorian Gymnasium over to the developers of the Colchester Garrison site. [168886]

**Derek Twigg:** The former Garrison Church is expected to be handed over to the developers of the Colchester Garrison site on 3 December 2007. The Garrison Theatre, part of Goojerat Barracks, may be handed over at any time after 28 December 2007, in accordance with the contract. The Victorian Gymnasium has already been passed to the developer, subject to a lease back arrangement, pending the provision of new facilities under the terms of the Private Finance Initiative, when the old Gymnasium will no longer be required. The new facilities are expected to be completed by mid 2008.

### Patrol Craft

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what agreement has been reached between his Department and Vosper Thorneycroft (UK) Ltd. to supply three river class offshore patrol vessels; and when the lease will end; [168228]

(2) what steps he plans to take at the end of the lease period for the river class offshore patrol vessels; and if he will make a statement. [168245]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The lease arrangement for the three river class offshore patrol vessels currently in place with the VT Group PLC (formerly Vosper Thorneycroft (UK) Ltd.), was let in 2003 for an initial period of five years, with an option to extend for a further five years. The decision was made in December 2006 to exercise this option and the lease arrangement will now expire in 2013. While arrangements for the provision of vessels beyond 2013 will be dependent on the continuing requirement to provide UK Fishery Protection on behalf of DEFRA, contract arrangements would be subject to defence competition policy.

### Puma Helicopters

**Mr. Keetch:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the RAF Puma helicopter, lost in Iraq on 20 November, first entered service. [167968]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The RAF Puma helicopter ZA938 lost in Iraq on 20 November 2007 entered service on 4 February 1981. The safety record of the Puma has been good, and is comparable with other helicopters operated by the MOD.

## TREASURY

### HM Revenue and Customs

13. **Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of HM Revenue and Customs over the last two years [169075]

**Jane Kennedy:** The latest assessments of all Departments' PSA targets are published on the Treasury website.

HMRC's departmental report in May 2007 showed that 17 of the 23 performance measures underpinning their PSA targets have shown improvement since April 2005.

15. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of HM Revenue and Customs over the last two years. [169077]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Rugby (Jeremy Wright) (UIN 169075) earlier today.

20. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made in the HM Revenue and Customs work force change programme in Newport; and if he will make a statement. [169082]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenues Customs consulted widely earlier this year on its initial proposals for reducing its estate in the Cardiff urban centre—Cardiff, Newport and Pontypridd—to match future business requirements. Detailed feasibility work is being carried out taking account of all the consultation feedback received from staff, unions, hon. Members, Assembly members and local authorities. HMRC hopes to announce decisions early next year.

25. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of HM Revenue and Customs over the last two years. [169087]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Rugby and Kenilworth (Jeremy Wright) (UIN 169075) earlier today.

### Carbon-neutral Operations

16. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to make the operations of his Department carbon neutral. [169078]

**Angela Eagle:** The Treasury is committed to meeting the Government's target to become carbon neutral by 2012, and annually publishes its strategy for reducing its environmental impact.

The Department has reduced carbon emissions from its office estate by 19.5 per cent. since 1999-2000, sources all electricity from renewable sources, and off-sets departmental air travel.

The Treasury will continue to take action to reduce emissions. Opportunities to offset emissions will be explored once levels have been reduced as much as possible

### Northern Rock: Debts

**Mr. Greenway:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value is of subordinated debt owed by Northern Rock to the Exchequer; and if he will make a statement. [169079]

**Kitty Ussher:** The value of subordinated debt owed is a matter for Northern Rock and the Bank of England. We would not comment on any lending from the Bank of England.

### International Financial Markets

18. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has with his international counterparts on the performance of international financial markets. [169080]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Chancellor regularly meets with his international counterparts to discuss a range of topical issues. More recently, there has been increased focus on financial market developments. In terms of specific meetings where this issue has been discussed, these have included the G7 and G20 Finance Ministers meetings on 19 October and 17-18 November respectively, as well as the meetings of European Finance Ministers in September and October. The Chancellor has also taken part in a range of bilateral meetings with his international counterparts where financial market developments have been discussed.

### HM Revenue and Customs: Personal Data

19. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues and children's organisations on the implications for child protection of the recent loss of personal data by HM Revenue and Customs. [169081]

**Jane Kennedy:** The police continue to have no reason to believe that these data have been used for fraudulent purposes or criminal activity. The Government have discussed the broader implications of the incident with a range of organisations, and have considered appropriate steps to manage any risks resulting from the unlikely event that these data fall into the wrong hands.

22. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who will bear liability arising from any fraudulent use of the personal data relating to child benefit lost by HM Revenue and Customs. [169084]

**Jane Kennedy:** The police continue to have no reason to believe that these data have found their way into the wrong hands and are not aware of any evidence that they have been used for fraudulent purposes or criminal activity.

### Skills Shortages

24. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the impact on the UK economy of skills shortages. [169086]

**Angela Eagle:** The independent Leitch Review of Skills found no evidence that skill gaps or shortages have held back economic growth, though it did recommend that the Government raise their ambitions on improving the skills of the work force.

The 2007 National Employer Skills Survey conducted by the Learning and Skills Council highlights falls in the proportion of employers reporting skills gaps and the percentage of all vacancies caused by skills shortages.

The Government are increasing their investment in improving the skills of the population. Expenditure on higher education and adult skills in England will grow by over £2 billion over the next three years.

### QinetiQ

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues at the Ministry of Defence on the National Audit Office report on the privatisation of QinetiQ. [169083]

**Andy Burnham:** The Government accept the recommendations made in the NAO report, and welcome the work undertaken to highlight lessons that can be applied in the future.

### Tax Credits

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of administration of the tax credit system. [169085]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) earlier today.

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people he estimates will be directly affected by the loss of personal data from the child benefit database in each London borough. [168119]

**Jane Kennedy:** The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients, including those in London boroughs.

The acting Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs is writing to all customers affected by the loss of child benefit data.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by local authority and parliamentary constituency is published as part of National Statistics and can be found in tables 2 and 3 of Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis which are available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child benefit claimants in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley are affected by the loss of bank account details by HM Revenue and Customs. [168169]

**Jane Kennedy:** The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients, including those in Bexleyheath and Crayford and the London borough of Bexley. The acting chairman of HM Revenue and Customs is writing to all customers affected by the loss of child benefit data.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by local authority and parliamentary constituency is published as part of National Statistics and can be found in tables 2 and 3 of child benefit statistics geographical analysis which are available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in (i) East Cambridgeshire, (ii) South Cambridgeshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire and (iv) the South East Cambridgeshire constituency have had their personal details lost in the recent security breach at HM Revenue and Customs. [168721]

**Jane Kennedy:** The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients, including those in East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire and the South East Cambridgeshire. The acting chairman of HM Revenue and Customs is writing to all customers affected by the loss of child benefit data.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by local authority and parliamentary constituency is published as part of National Statistics and can be found in tables 2 and 3 of child benefit statistics geographical analysis which are available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geogaug06.pdf

## Corporate Tax

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the level of corporate tax rates in each of the OECD economies in each year since 1990. [167867]

**Jane Kennedy:** Data on corporate tax rates in OECD countries are publicly available from the OECD tax database, which can be accessed from the OECD's public website at http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/26/56/33717459.xls. These data are available from 2000.

## Council Tax: Rebates

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of rebating *(a)* £100, *(b)* £200, *(c)* £300 and *(d)* £400 in council tax to all households with at least one resident (i) over the age of 65, (ii) under the age of seven and (iii) under the age of 11. [166631]

**Jane Kennedy:** The following table gives the requested information.

| | *Households containing* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Council tax rebate (£)* | *A person aged 65 and over (£ million)* | *Children aged 7 and under (£ million)* | *Children aged 11 and under (£ million)* |
| 100 | 300 | 280 | 390 |
| 200 | 610 | 560 | 780 |
| 300 | 940 | 850 | 1,180 |
| 400 | 1,290 | 1,140 | 1,580 |

*Notes:*
1. Estimated cost for 2007-08, net of council tax benefit expenditure.
2. Estimates for Great Britain.
3. Estimated using HM Treasury tax-benefit simulation model using Family Resources Survey 2005-06 uprated to 2007-08 levels of prices and earnings.
4. Assumes 100 per cent. take-up of benefits.
5. Modelled by reducing original council tax liability before council tax benefit is calculated.

## Departmental Documents

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's *(a)* policy and *(b)* practice is on classifying documents as not for National Audit Office eyes. [167622]

**Jane Kennedy:** There is no such classification.

## Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what information his Department collects and monitors in relation to the telephone contact centres for which his Department is responsible; [166542]

(2) which telephone contact centres are the responsibility of his Department; what mechanisms are in place to monitor their effectiveness; and how many people have been employed in each of those centres in each year since they were established. [166541]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC currently operates 21 contact centres through its centrally managed customer contact directorate. These handle the bulk of inbound customer initiated telephone calls. Additionally there remain a number of helplines and back office telephony services that are operated outside of this contact centre network.

The effectiveness of the HMRC contact centre operations is monitored through standard departmental management arrangements, through customer satisfaction surveys, through membership of the industry-wide Contact Centre Association and by active participation in the recently established Contact Council, set up following publication of Sir David Varney's report: "Service Transformation: a Better Service For Citizens and Businesses, a Better Deal for Taxpayers" published alongside the 2006 pre-Budget report and available at

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

With regard to staff numbers, I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1453W.

HMRC collects and monitors a wide range of information in respect of its contact centre operations including call volumes, caller demand, service levels achieved and customer satisfaction survey results.

**Productivity: Public Sector**

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revisions to the definition of public sector productivity there have been since 1997; and how many times this definition has changed since 1997. [166746]

**Andy Burnham:** Productivity is the relationship between inputs and outputs and the measurement of public sector output and therefore of public sector productivity is technically complex. The Atkinson review was set up by the National Statistician to independently review the future development of measures of government output, productivity and associated price indices. Following the Review's report in 2005 the National Statistician set up within the Office of National Statistics (ONS) the UK centre for the Measurement of Government Activity (UKCeMGA) to take forward the review's findings. This work is continuing and regular progress reports are published by UKCeMGA on their website.

**Revenue and Customs: ICT**

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how long the computer system in the HM Revenue and Customs office at Bradford has been out of operation; what the reasons were for the failure of the system; and what steps he is taking to ensure that such failures are not repeated. [167969]

**Jane Kennedy:** According to our records, the computer system in the HM Revenue and Customs office in Bradford is not out of operation.

**Revenue and Customs: Prosecutions**

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many criminal prosecutions were brought against HM Revenue and Customs staff for matters relating to their employment in the last year for which figures are available. [168051]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs currently has around 87,000 staff. In the last financial year commencing 1 April 2006 and ending 31 March 2007, 15 criminal prosecutions were completed against HM Revenue and Customs staff for matters relating to their employment.

**Tax Allowances: Agriculture**

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what value of roll-over relief was claimed in respect of gains made on agricultural land in the latest year for which figures are available. [168757]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available

**Taxation: Domicil**

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of non-domicile tax status personnel currently associated with the UK for at least part of the year; how many have incomes of *(a)* less than £100,000, *(b)* £100 to 500,000, *(c)* £500,000 to £1 million, *(d)* £1 to 5 million, *(e)* £5 to 20 million, *(f)* £20 to 50 million, *(g)* £50 to 100 million and *(h)* in excess of £100 million; and what revenue would be raised if a tax were applied of (i) 40 per cent. to each category below £1 million, (ii) 50 per cent. to each category between £1 million and £5 million and (iii) 60 per cent. on each category above £5 million. [166164]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* Information on how long non-domiciled individuals are present in the UK within a particular year is not available.

Information is only available on the numbers of individuals indicating non-domicile status on their self assessment (SA) returns. The last full year's SA data relate to 2004-05, in which there were 115,000 indicating non-domicile status. HMRC's live systems show the latest figure (as at August 2007) for 2005-06 is 114,000 individuals.

Information on worldwide incomes for non-domiciles is not available. A breakdown by UK taxable income of the individuals who indicated non-domicile status through SA tax returns in 2005-06 is as follows (data as at April 2007).

| *Total taxable income (lower limit)* | *Numbers indicating non-domicile status* |
|---|---|
| £0 | 84,000 |
| £100,000 | 23,000 |
| £500,000 | 3,000 |
| £1,000,000 | 1,000 |
| £5,000,000 | 100 |
| All | 111,000 |

*Note:*
This total number is smaller than reported above as more returns were processed between April and August 2007. Income bands above £5 million have been grouped together to protect tax payer confidentiality.

The total UK tax liability of those indicating non-domicile status in 2005-06 (as at April 2007) was £3.9 billion. Applying tax rates of (i) 40 per cent. to individuals with less than £1 million UK taxable income, (ii) 50 per cent. to individuals with between £1 million and £5 million UK taxable income and (iii) 60 per cent. to individuals with £5 million taxable income or more in 2005-06 would have raised around £6.3 billion, i.e. an additional £2.4 billion. This is a theoretical maximum, not taking into account personal allowances, other tax rates or behavioural effects, such as rearranging tax affairs to take more income out of UK tax, reducing hours worked or leaving the UK altogether.

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the average earnings of those registered as non-domiciled in the UK; [166352]

(2) how many and what proportion of non-domiciles for taxation purposes have been resident in the UK for more than 10 years. [166354]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information is only available for individuals indicating non-domicile status on their self assessment (SA) returns. Income data for such individuals are only available annually. For 2005-06 these data (as at April 2007) included 111,000 individuals, of whom 65,000 declared UK employment income averaging approximately £140,000. In addition, 13,000 declared foreign source employment income averaging approximately £60,000.

Based on a small scale sampling exercise in 2004 covering cases processed by HMRC expatriate and complex personal return teams, it has been estimated that around 10,000 individuals indicating non-domicile status per year have been resident in the UK for more than 10 years. This represents approximately 9 per cent. of the 115,000 individuals indicating non-domicile status in 2004-05, the last full year of data.

### VAT: Game Birds

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much unpaid VAT was *(a)* detected and *(b)* reclaimed by the HM Revenue and Customs Game Shooting Industry National Pilot Project; [168915]

(2) how much unpaid income tax has been recovered through the HM Revenue and Customs Game Shooting Industry National Pilot Project; [168916]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the HM Revenue and Customs Game Shooting Industry National Pilot Project. [168917]

**Jane Kennedy:** The shoot project is ongoing. To date VAT assessments have been issued for £6 million. This figure is expected to double within the lifetime of the project.

The project began in HM Customs and Excise as a VAT initiative. However, HMRC always seeks to take a cross tax view of initiatives when possible. Earlier this year the VAT results then available were reviewed for signs of any additional income tax liability. Risks of underpaid income tax have only been identified in a small proportion of the cases reviewed and as yet no income tax has been recovered

No assessment of the effectiveness of the shoot project has been made.

### Welfare Tax Credits

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 25W, on welfare tax credits, how many full-time equivalent staff at HM Customs and Revenue are working to complete the review of tax credits awards from 2003 to 2006. [166412]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* Around 130 Tax Credit Office staff are currently working directly on the cases arising from this exercise. As the review progresses, the Tax Credit Office will assign resources so that these awards are put on a sound footing as soon as is practicable. HMRC remain committed to improving the services they provide to tax credits customers.

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 25W, on welfare tax credits, how many tax credits claimants are subject to reduced payments as a consequence of alleged over payments from 2003 to 2006 which are now the subject of the review by HM Customs and Revenue. [166413]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The number of households whose current tax credits awards are reduced to recover an overpayment that is the subject of this review is not readily available, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The awards which are being reviewed, however, do accurately reflect the households' circumstances at the time the original decision was made. The process by which HM Revenue and Customs took the relevant new information into account was not correct. The review will simply put the affected awards on the proper administrative footing, and the majority of those affected by the review will not see any impact on their tax credits award.

### Welfare Tax Credits: EC Nationals

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the amount of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit overpaid to A8 nationals working in the UK in the last 12 months. [167651]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from how many declared bankrupts the Tax Credit Office has reclaimed tax credit overpayments. [167647]

**Jane Kennedy:** Since May 2004 HM Revenue and Customs is aware of around 1,500 cases where claimants have notified the Department that they are bankrupt.

Information is not available for the number of claimants who have notified the Department they are bankrupt but are continuing to pay back an overpayment of tax credits.

If any claimant disputes HMRC's decision to recover an overpayment from them, then HMRC will suspend the recovery of the overpaid tax credits while the reasons for the dispute are looked into.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Prime Minister for what reasons question 167389 on the cross-Government working group on anti-semitism, was transferred to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; what criteria he uses when deciding to transfer a question; how many questions tabled to him have been transferred to other Government Ministers since June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [169532]

**The Prime Minister:** Questions are answered by the responsible Minister. Details of transfers can be found in the daily 'Questions Book', copies of which are available in the Vote Office.

### Departmental Accountability

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answers of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 576-77W, on departmental accountability, for what reasons he did not provide the information requested in the questions tabled. [169624]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 576-77W.

### Diego Garcia: USA

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 577W, on Diego Garcia: USA, for what reasons he did not state whether he would ensure a Parliamentary debate before any decision is taken on the use of Diego Garcia by the US Administration. [169623]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 577W.

### Joint Intelligence Committee

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to publish the names of attenders of Joint Intelligence Committee meetings. [167336]

**The Prime Minister:** Details of the membership of the Joint Intelligence Committee can be found on the UK Intelligence Community Online website at:

http://www.intelligence.gov.uk/central_intelligence_machinery/joint_intelligence_committee.aspx.

A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Ministerial Changes: Ministry of Defence

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Prime Minister what additional cost to the public purse there will be from the appointment of Baroness Taylor of Bolton to replace Lord Drayson as Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support; and if he will make a statement. [165546]

**The Prime Minister:** Ministerial salaries are paid in accordance with the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975. The Act limits the number of ministerial salaries to 109.

### NHS

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda, *(b)* minutes and *(c)* action points of the meeting held by his predecessor on 17 October 2006 with strategic health authority chief executives. [167839]

**The Prime Minister:** Details of this meeting can be found on the Number 10 website at

http://pm.gov.uk/output/Page10227.asp.

A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Opinion Leader Research

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Prime Minister how many contracts were awarded by his Office to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165325]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 132W.

### Security Guards: Illegal Immigrants

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Prime Minister when he was first informed that illegal migrant workers had been given clearance to work in sensitive security posts. [168605]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 578W.

### Terrorism

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) on what dates he has consulted the *(a)* Director of Public Prosecutions, *(b)* the Attorney-General and *(c)* the Solicitor-General on Government proposals to increase the number of days a suspect may be held under anti-terror legislation since June 2007; [169253]

(2) when he last met the Director of Public Prosecutions to discuss counter-terrorism policy. [169701]

**The Prime Minister:** I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

### Trade Unions

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Prime Minister how many meetings he has had with trade union leaders since 27 June; which leaders he met; when and where such meetings took place; and if he will make a statement. [169286]

**The Prime Minister:** My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

### Uganda: Human Rights

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Prime Minister what representations he made to President Museveni during the Commonwealth Heads of State Conference on *(a)* the human rights situation in Uganda and *(b)* the peace talks with the Lord's Resistance Army. [168062]

**The Prime Minister:** I discussed a wide range of issues with President Museveni during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Uganda including the UK Government's support of the Juba peace talks.

### World Cup: Football

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 232W, on World Cup, what the dates were of meetings since 28 June held between him or officials working on his behalf and the Football Association at which the appointment of the Government's World Cup ambassador was discussed. [167840]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 232W.

### Written Questions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answers of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 577W, on *(a)* mass media and *(b)* departmental official engagements, for what reasons he did not provide the information requested in the questions. [169625]

**The Prime Minister:** I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 577W.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

### Government Departments: Data Protection

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission what assessment has been made of the efficacy of data protection practice to safeguard against the unauthorised release of data which have been adopted by Government departments and agencies when subject to audit by the National Audit Office. [170030]

**Mr. Alan Williams:** This is not a matter for the Commission. The Comptroller and Auditor General has, by statute, complete discretion in the discharge of his functions, and the Commission therefore does not intervene in the day to day running of the National Audit Office. The hon. Member may wish to write to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Alternative Energy: Standards

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Government's capacity targets are for the commercial development of *(a)* wave energy and *(b)* tidal energy in UK waters by (i) 2012, (ii) 2020 and (iii) 2030. [166961]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government have not set capacity targets for individual technologies but provide a range of support measures to facilitate the development of wave and tidal energy.

These include £35 million already committed for innovative industry-led technology development under the Technology Strategy Board's technology programme and £50 million under BERR's marine renewables deployment fund to support the first larger-scale demonstration projects.

We have consulted on banding the RO so as to provide greater levels of support to these emerging renewable technologies.

### Defence: Exports

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of defence exports in each of the last five years for which full year data are available; and if he will provide a table showing *(a)* the UK share of the global defence exports market in each year and *(b)* the split by (i) number and (ii) value of contracts in sterling between government-to-government contracts or agreements and non-government-to-government contracts or agreements. [168382]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows our estimate of the share of the global defence market for which UK exports account in the years 2002 to 2006.

| | *UK market share (Percentage)* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 22 |
| 2003 | 22 |
| 2004 | 20 |
| 2005 | 18 |
| 2006 | 18 |

The value of orders won by UK industry is shown in UK Defence Statistics 2007, Table 1.14. A copy of which is available in the Library of the House and also online at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/ukds/2007/cl/table114.html

The other information is not held in the format requested. We estimate, however, that around two-fifths of the value of UK defence exports in the years 2002 to 2006 relates to business under government-to-government agreements. During these years three such agreements have contributed to this overall share of UK exports.

### Fuel Poverty

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to publish the Annual Progress Report for 2007 on the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy. [166771]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* The Government will publish shortly their annual progress report on fuel poverty covering 2005 which will include statistics of households in fuel poverty in England in 2005.

### Microgeneration

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of the UK's electricity is supplied from sources using microgeneration technologies; and if he will make a statement. [167003]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In 2006, five gigawatts of installed capacity of renewables produced 4.5 per cent. of electricity generated in the United Kingdom. We estimate that there are approximately 100,000 microgeneration installations in the United Kingdom. However specific figures for the amount of electricity generated by microgeneration are not available.

### Natural Gas: Distribution

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the number of households with access to mains gas supply. [167507]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* My Department does not hold information about the number of households that have access to mains gas, whether or not they take it up. Ofgem's Domestic Retail Market Report (June 2007) states that there are 21.5 million domestic gas customer accounts in Great Britain.

### Power Stations

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has undertaken on the capacity of existing power station sites in the UK to accommodate *(a)* nuclear new build and *(b)* renewable technologies. [168174]

**Malcolm Wicks:** As part of the Government's preparations for the 2006 Energy Review report, the Department commissioned Jackson Consulting to produce a discussion paper looking at the issues that would be relevant to the siting of any new nuclear power stations. The paper included a preliminary assessment of the suitability of existing nuclear power station sites for any new build and also included the suggestion that opportunities for new build might exist at other power station sites. The paper, which represents the views of the authors Jackson Consulting alone, was published by the Department on its website on 23 May 2007 as a background paper to the Government's consultation on the future of nuclear power.

The Department is currently considering responses to the consultation on nuclear power. If the Government were to confirm their preliminary view that it would be in the public interest to allow private sector energy companies the option of investing in new nuclear power stations, we have proposed to undertake a strategic siting assessment (SSA), in combination with a strategic environmental assessment, to develop robust, objective and transparent criteria for assessing the suitability of sites for new nuclear power stations.

On renewables, in July 2006 the Department published on its website a study by IPA and Mitsui Babcock into the economics of co-firing, the ability of existing fossil fuel stations to burn a proportion of biomass to generate electricity.

### Renewable Energy: Seas and Oceans

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will modify the operation of the Marine Renewables Development fund *(a)* to accommodate the changing needs of British renewable companies and *(b)* to develop a marine energy industry in the UK; [166973]

(2) how much of the Marine Renewables Development Fund has been allocated to date; and to which schemes funds have been allocated. [167033]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Marine Renewables Deployment Fund (MRDF) provides support for early commercial scale wave and tidal-stream demonstration projects. To date no individual demonstration projects have been supported under the MRDF as progress towards full commercialisation of these technologies has been slower than expected. The MRDF has offered £4.5 million support to the proposed Wave Hub project (at:

www.wavehub.co.uk)

and £2 million has been allocated to a programme of environmental research for these technologies.

The Renewables Advisory Board is currently conducting a review of the marine sector including reasons for the low take-up to date of the MRDF. A final report is expected later this year and we will consider any recommendations carefully.

### Wave Power

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the contribution of wave and tidal energy towards meeting renewable targets; and if he will amend the system of renewable obligation certificates for the renewable energy sector to encourage the development of wave and tidal energy. [167036]

**Malcolm Wicks:** A report by the Carbon Trust 'Future Marine Energy' at:

www.thecarbontrust.co.uk/Publications/publicationdetail.htm?productid=:CTC601

estimated that together offshore wave and tidal-steam energy has the potential to meet between 15 per cent. and 20 per cent. of current UK electricity.

The Government are currently considering the responses to the consultation on our proposals to amend the renewables obligation to provide greater levels of support for emerging technologies including wave and tidal energy.

### Wind Power

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many wind farms there are in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. [168304]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* There are no wind farms in the Ribble Valley. However, there are three wind farms in Lancashire and one of these, Caton Moor, is near the Ribble Valley. England has a total of 148 wind farms.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Crimes of Violence: Northern Ireland

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the level of violent crime in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [163161]

**Paul Goggins:** The number of violent crimes recorded by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the last three years is as follows:

| | *Number of violent crimes* |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 32,512 |
| 2005-06 | 34,408 |
| 2006-07 | 35,223 |
| 1 April to 30 September 2007 | 16,313 |

Violent crime includes offences against the person such as, murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent and GBH with intent. It also includes sexual offences such as, rape and indecent assault on a female, robbery and hijacking.

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2007 to 2010, commits the PSNI to reducing the total number of violent crimes by 2 per cent. by 31 March 2008. Targets are measured against a baseline at 31 March 2007.

Excellent progress has been made against this target; violent crimes recorded by the police have been reduced by 15.7 per cent. for the first six months of this year, compared with the same period last year.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Commonwealth Games: Glasgow

**Mr. Marshall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what lottery funding will be made available for the hosting of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. [168328]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** National Lottery grant-making decisions are made independently of Government by the lottery distributing bodies. I understand that Glasgow's Candidate City File for the 2014 Games set out the various revenue streams that were expected and that this did not include any revenue from the lottery.

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what increase in jobs he expects the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games to bring to Scotland in each year from 2007. [169441]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Sport in Scotland, including the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games and its legacy, is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive. We are, however, committed to working with the bid partners to ensure a successful Commonwealth Games in 2014.

### Digital Broadcasting

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) which areas *(a)* can receive all digital multiplex signals, *(b)* have partial coverage and *(c)* are unable to receive any digital multiplex signals via digital terrestrial television in each region; [168996]

(2) what percentage of each region is covered by each digital broadcasting multiplex signal on *(a)* terrestrial, *(b)* cable and *(c)* satellite broadcasting platforms; [169048]

(3) what the percentage coverage was of each digital broadcasting multiplex signal in each region broadcasting from each digital platform in each of the last five years. [169049]

**James Purnell:** The matters raised are the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom), as independent regulator for the communications sector. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

### Football: Tickets

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received about the pricing regime of Premier League football tickets for the 2007-08 season; and if he will make a statement. [169536]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I have received correspondence regarding ticket pricing from a wide number of stakeholders including supporters groups, clubs and fans.

Ticket pricing is a matter for the football authorities and it would not be right for Government to seek to intervene in these issues directly.

However, there is a clear role for Government to play in acting as a 'critical friend' to football, and in seeking to facilitate useful debates around areas of concern across all levels of sport.

The Government are committed to ensuring that all football clubs are run in the best possible way and that they remain a focal point of their local community and I will continue to highlight the concerns of supporters in my regular discussion with the football authorities.

## OLYMPICS

### Official Gifts

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library a list of gifts and hospitality given by members of the Olympic Delivery Authority; and if she will make a statement. [169374]

**Tessa Jowell:** The Olympic Delivery Authority intends to publish its gifts and hospitality register early next year.

### Olympic Delivery Authority: Business Interests

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will place in the Library the latest copy of the Olympic Delivery Authority's register of *(a)* interests and *(b)* gifts and hospitality. [168400]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Olympic Delivery Authority intends to publish its first *(a)* register of Board members' interests, and *(b)* its gifts and hospitality register, early next year.

## TRANSPORT

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that buses in all areas have smart-card readers when smart cards for nation-wide pensioners travel concessions are introduced. [169477]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government have no immediate plans to fund the roll-out of smart readers on buses. It would not be practical to require smart readers to be installed in buses in all areas in time for April 2008 when the national bus concession is introduced.

Operators and local authorities are free to work together to implement full smart ticketing and we fully support such action. There are substantial advantages to bus operators and local authorities in going 'smart'—reduced fraud and much better data on how many concessionary journeys are being made, which will help with reimbursement arrangements.

### Crossrail Line

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is planned that a single operator will run all passenger trains on Crossrail tracks. [168661]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I refer the hon. Member to section 8, 'Crossrail Operations', of the Heads of Terms for Crossrail that has been agreed between the Department for Transport and Transport for London, which was placed in the House Library by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 November and which states:

"Agreement has not yet been reached as to whether there will be a single Crossrail TOC [Train Operating Company] or more than one Crossrail TOC"

### Crossrail Line: Paddington Station

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had on the interaction of new Crossrail services and existing commuter rail links running into Paddington. [168662]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Crossrail services will subsume inner suburban services, and there will be complementary longer distance commuter services. Stops by express trains are not affected. There has been consultation by a variety of means, including: during project development; as part of the hybrid bill process; through the Crossrail Railway Stakeholders' Forum that I chair and by the Office of Rail Regulation on the application for access rights for Crossrail services contained in an access option.

### Emergency Services: Motorways

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of occasions on which emergency vehicles have used the hard shoulder for access to an incident on each of the motorways in the North West Region in the last 12 months. [169512]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department for Transport does not hold records in relation to the number of occasions that vehicles, belonging to the Emergency Services, have used the motorway hard-shoulder in the North West for access to incidents.

### Gatwick Express

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what involvement her Department has had in the alteration of timetables and services on the Gatwick Express over the last 12 months. [168689]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** There have been no alterations to Gatwick Express services during the last 12 months. The department has, however, agreed a Deed of Amendment to the Southern franchise, which, among other things, will provide for the extension of some morning and evening peak Gatwick Express services from and to Brighton. These changes are scheduled for introduction in December 2008.

### Railways: Fares

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what conclusions she has reached following her Department's review of unregulated rail fares; and if she will make a statement. [164636]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department has not undertaken a formal review of unregulated fares. Unregulated fares are a matter for train operators. The Department continues to listen to the representations of Passenger Focus and has invited them to take a greater role in commenting on the specification of future franchises.

### Railways: Safety Measures

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 20 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2932W, when she expects the Rail Safety Standards Board research into passenger emergency evacuation procedures to be published. [168921]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Rail Safety and Standards Board published its research on 31 July 2007. The findings are available on the RSSB website www.rssb.co.uk.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any people have died as a result of using emergency egress windows as a means of escape following a train crash. [168927]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is unaware of any people having died as a result of using designated emergency egress windows as a means of escape following a train crash.

## Road Traffic: Schools

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of her Department's spending has been devoted to measures to reduce the amount of traffic generated by the school run in each of the last five years. [164630]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The development of measures to reduce the amount of traffic generated by the school run does not fall neatly into boxes that enable us to say what proportion of the Department's spending has been devoted to these in each of the last five years. This is because, in addition to the expenditure on centrally managed programmes, a considerable amount of expenditure is committed by local highway authorities that receive funding from the Department through the Local Transport Plan (LTP) settlement and determine their own priorities.

The Mayor of London also receives funding from the Department via a total transport grant through Transport for London (TfL) and bus operators receive Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) which makes bus services cheaper. The DfT integrated block element of the LTP settlement was worth £547 million in 2006-07, while TfL received £2.4 billion and bus service operators received £380 million in BSOG.

In addition we can, however, identify the amount of funding allocated for regional and local authority school travel advisers through the "Travelling to School" project, for 'Links to Schools' and for other initiatives such as 'Bike It' that promote and support cycling to school. (Prior to April 2004, the Department awarded a number of bursaries to local authorities to enable them to employ school travel plan co-ordinators rather than school travel advisers.) The levels of expenditure in each of the last five years are shown as follows:

*£ million*

| | *Regional and LASTAs* | *'Links to schools'* | *Bike it* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1.935 | — | — |
| 2003-04 | 1.935 | — | — |
| 2004-05 | 3.75 | 10 | — |
| 2005-06 | 3.75 | 2 | 0.3 |
| 2006-07 | 3.75 | 4.2 | 0.312 |

We know that local authorities spent the following amounts of funding received through their LTP settlement on providing 'Safe Routes to School'. The figure for 2006-07 has still to be audited.

*£ million*

| | *'Safe routes to school'* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 27.737 |
| 2003-04 | 24.33 |
| 2004-05 | 26.319 |
| 2005-06 | 25.398 |
| 2006-07 | 19.457 |

This provides only a partial picture. Other funding allocated to local authorities through the LTP settlement will have been allocated to measures that will contribute to reducing traffic generated by the school run but they are not designed solely for this purpose. Examples will include other road safety and traffic calming schemes, road maintenance and cycle lanes.

## Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list each motorway and trunk road building project that has been submitted for the targeted programme of improvement scheme; and which schemes *(a)* have been (i) successful and (ii) unsuccessful and *(b)* are still being considered. [163226]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The following schemes have been approved for entry to the Targeted Programme of Improvements (TPI), since its inception. The six schemes shown as "suspended" were not prioritised for funding by the regions within their Regional Funding Allocations to 2015-16.

| *Project name* | *Open to traffic* |
|---|---|
| A1 Willowburn—Denwick Improvement | Yes |
| A1 (M) Ferrybridge—Hook Moor | Yes |
| A1 (M) Wetherby—Walshford | Yes |
| A2 Bean—Cobham Phase 1 Bean—Pepperhill | Yes |
| A2 Bean—Cobham Phase 2 Pepperhill—Cobham | Under construction |
| A2/A282 Dartford Improvement | Under construction |
| A5 Nesscliffe Bypass | Yes |
| A5 Weeford—Fazeley Improvement | Yes |
| A6 Great Glen Bypass | Yes |
| A6 Rushden and Higham Ferrers Bypass | Yes |
| A6 Rothwell—Desborough Bypass | Yes |
| A6 Clapham Bypass | Yes |
| A6 Alvaston Improvement | Yes |
| A10 Wadesmill to Colliers End Bypass | Yes |
| A11 Roudham Heath—Attleborough Improvement | Yes |
| A14 Rookery Crossroads GSJ | Yes |
| A21 Lamberhurst Bypass | Yes |
| A23 Coulsdon Inner Relief Road | Transferred to TfL |
| A27 Polegate Bypass | Yes |
| A34 Chieveley/M4 Jct 13 Improvement | Yes |
| A41 Aston Clinton Bypass | Yes |
| A43 Silverstone Bypass (A43 M40—B4031 Dualling) | Yes |
| A43 Whitfield Turn—Brackley Hatch Improvement (A43 M40—B4031 Dualling) | Yes |
| A43 M40—B4031 Dualling | Yes |
| A46 Newark—Lincoln Improvement | Yes |

| *Project name* | *Open to traffic* |
|---|---|
| A63 Selby Bypass | Yes |
| A66 Stainburn and Great Clifton Bypass | Yes |
| A120 Stansted to Braintree Improvement | Yes |
| A249 Iwade—Queenborough Improvement (DBFO) | Yes |
| A303 Stonehenge | Under review |
| A421 Great Barford Bypass | Yes |
| A500 City Road and Stoke Junction Improvement | Yes |
| A500 Basford, Hough, Shavington Bypass | Yes |
| A650 Bingley Relief Road | Yes |
| A1033 Hedon Road Improvement | Yes |
| M25J12-15 Widening | Yes |
| M60 J5-8 Widening | Yes |
| A11 Attleborough Bypass | Yes |
| A11 Fiveways—Thetford Improvement | In preparation |
| A47 Thorney Bypass | Yes |
| M6 Carlisle to Guardsmill Extension | Under construction |
| A63 Melton Grade Separated Junction | Yes |
| A14 Haughley New St—Stowmarket Improvement | Under construction |
| A3 Hindhead Improvement | Under construction |
| A38 Dobwalls Bypass | Under construction |
| A595 Parton—Lillyhall Improvement | Under construction |
| A1 Peterborough—Blyth GSJ | Under construction |
| M62 Junction 6 Improvement | Under construction |
| A46 Newark—Widmerpool Improvement | In preparation |
| A30 Bodmin Indian Queens Improvement | Yes |
| A483 Pant—Llanymynech Bypass | Suspended |
| A5117/A550 Deeside Park Junctions Improvement | Under construction |
| A419 Blunsdon Bypass | Under construction |
| A66 Temple Sowerby Bypass and Imp at Winderwath | Yes |
| A1 Dishforth to Leeming Improvement (A1 Dishforth to Barton) | In preparation |
| A1 Bramham—Wetherby (Including Wetherby BP) | Under construction |
| A1 Leeming to Barton Improvement (A1 Dishforth to Barton) | In preparation |
| A64 Rillington Bypass | Suspended |
| M40/A404 Handy Cross Junction Improvement | Yes |
| A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling | In preparation |
| A66 Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank Improvement | Yes |
| A66 Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner Improvement | Yes |
| A428 Caxton Common to Hardwick Improvement | Yes |
| A30/A382 Merrymeet Junction | Yes |
| A66 Long Newton Junction | Under construction |
| A1 Stannington Junction | Yes |
| A69 Haydon Bridge Bypass | Under construction |
| A419 Commonhead Junction | Yes |
| M4 Junction 18 Eastbound Diverge | Yes |
| M5 Junctions 17—18a Northbound Climbing Lane (Hallen Hill) | Yes |
| M5 Junctions 19-20 Southbound Climbing Lane (Naish Hill) | Yes |
| M5 Junctions 19-20 Northbound Climbing Lane (Tickenham Hill) | Yes |
| M1 J19/M6 Improvement | In preparation |
| A14 Ellington—Fen Ditton Improvement | In preparation |
| A57/A628 Mottram in Longdendale, Hollingworth and Tintwistle BP | In preparation |
| A45/A46 Tollbar End Improvement | In preparation |
| M1 Junction 6a to 10 Widening | Under construction |
| M1 Junction 10 to 13 Widening | In preparation |
| A1 Morpeth to Felton Dualling | Suspended |
| A1 Adderstone to Belford Dualling | Suspended |
| A1/A19/A1068 Seaton Burn Junction Improvement | In preparation |
| A19/A184 Testos Grade Separated Junction | In preparation |
| A505 Dunstable Northern Bypass (A5 to M1 Link) | In preparation |
| A421 Bedford to M1 Junction 13 | In preparation |
| A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling | In preparation |
| M40 Junction 15 (Longbridge Roundabout) | In preparation |
| A64 Colton Lane GSJ | Yes |
| A590 High and Low Newton Bypass | Under construction |
| M20 Junction 10A | In preparation |
| A30 Garland Cross to Chiverton Cross | Suspended |
| A30 Temple to Higher Carblake Improvement | Suspended |
| A27 Southerham to Beddingham Improvement | Under construction |
| M1 J21-30 (Phase 1) | Under construction |
| M1 J21-30 (Phase2) | In preparation |
| M25 J1b-3 Widening (Section 3) | Under construction |
| M25 J5-7 Widening (Section 2) | In preparation |
| M25 J16-23 Widening (Section 1) | In preparation |
| M25 J23-27 Widening (Section 5) | In preparation |
| M25 J27-30 Widening (Section 4) | In preparation |
| A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst Improvements | In preparation |
| A23 Handcross to Warninglid Widening | In preparation |
| A453 Widening (M1 J24 to A52 Nottingham) | In preparation |
| M25 Junction 28/A12 Brook Street Junction Improvement | Under construction |
| M27 J11-J12 Climbing Lanes | In preparation |
| M27 J3 To J4 Widening | In preparation |
| M1 J30 to J31 Improvement | In preparation |
| M1 J31 to J32 Widening | Under construction |
| M1 J32 to J34 South Improvement | In preparation |
| M1 J34 North to J37 Improvement | In preparation |
| M1 J37 to J39 Improvement | In preparation |
| M1 J39 to J42 Improvement | In preparation |
| M1 J31-32 N/B Collector/Distributor | In preparation |
| M62 J25 to J27 Improvement | In preparation |
| M62 J27 to Jct 28 Improvement | In preparation |

The Highways Agency carries out a wide range of investigations to establish whether or not improvement schemes are required to address particular issues and problems on the trunk road network. A complete list of schemes which have been considered since the start of

the Targeted Programme of Improvements could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

A number of schemes are currently being prepared and will be submitted in due course for a decision on whether they should be added to the roads programme. However, no applications are currently being considered.

### Severn Bridge: Tolls

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the effects on the public purse of costs arising from removing the tolls from the two Severn bridges; and if she will make a statement. [168774]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** No estimate has been made of the effects on the public purse of costs arising from removing the tolls from the two Severn bridges.

Current legislation allows the concessionaire for the Severn Crossings to charge tolls until a defined amount has been collected from the tolling regime. At that time, the Severn Crossings will revert to the ownership of Government. There are no plans to terminate the concession agreement in advance of this. Current estimates are that ownership of the Crossings will revert to Government in 2016.

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the Severn Bridge toll arrangements on traffic flows *(a)* east and *(b)* west on the A48 in Gloucestershire. [168775]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** No recent assessments have been made by the Highways Agency of the impact of the Severn Bridge toll arrangements on traffic flows eastbound and westbound on the A48 in Gloucestershire.

### South West Trains: Rolling Stock

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will urge South West Trains to replace the Desiro Class 450 units on the Portsmouth to London services in the interests of passenger comfort. [169337]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I have no plans to do so.

The introduction of the Class 450s to the Stagecoach South Western Franchise (SSWT) has meant that older trains have been replaced with newer stock. This has led to an increase in overall capacity allowing greater numbers of passengers to have a seat during their journey.

### Transport for London: Finance

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the outcomes were of meetings held between her Department and Transport for London as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review about *(a)* their future funding needs and *(b)* liabilities they may face as a result of Metronet's entry into administration. [163474]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** As a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review, the Department for Transport has agreed a settlement with TfL through to 2017-18, which reflects the expected increased costs of the PPP going forward and makes provision for costs arising from Metronet's Administration. The agreed levels of funding and borrowing are:

*£ million (cash)*

| | *TfL grant* | *TfL borrowing* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 2708 | 600 |
| 2008-09 | 2785 | 1250 |
| 2009-10 | 2842 | 1100 |
| 2010-11 | 3252 | 300 |
| 2011-12 | 3158 | 400 |
| 2012-13 | 3305 | 400 |
| 2013-14 | 3460 | 300 |
| 2014-15 | 3622 | 600 |
| 2015-16 | 3720 | 600 |
| 2016-17 | 3822 | 600 |
| 2017-18 | 3924 | 600 |

### Transport: Anniversaries

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the setting of the world steam record. [169105]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The railway heritage movement has a number of events planned to mark the 70th anniversary of the setting of the world speed record for steam traction.

### Transport: Environment Protection

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to encourage car-sharing clubs. [168679]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department encourages car sharing both directly, as one of a range of measures (known collectively as 'smarter choices') aimed at helping people travel more sustainably, and indirectly, through encouraging local authorities to include car-based initiatives as part of their local transport strategies.

The Department also publishes a range of best practice guidance on work and school travel planning that include car share schemes. In 2005, we published "Making Car Sharing and Car Clubs Work" and "Making Smarter Choices Work".

Government initiatives such as (a) requiring travel plans for new developments, (b) the National Business Travel Network and (c) the Travelling to School project are increasing the number of workplaces and schools with travel plans.

Car share schemes are being set up nationally by commercial operators, by local authorities for their staff or the wider public and by businesses, schools and other organisations as individual initiatives or as part of a travel plan.

### Transport: Expenditure

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much was spent on transport in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and the South East and *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; [168384]

(2) what projections she has made of public spending on transport what projections in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and the South East and *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the next five years. [168390]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Figures for identifiable public spending, and spending per head, on transport by region and country are given in the following tables. No projections are made for the next five years on this basis. A regional breakdown of the Department's past spending and future spending plans is produced annually, and published in the Department's Annual Report and in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses produced by the Treasury and the Office of National Statistics. These documents are normally published in April or May.

*£ million*

| | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 696 | 831 | 979 | 964 | 990 | 1,096 |
| London | 2,363 | 2,660 | 4,440 | 3,944 | 4,232 | 4,663 |
| South East | 1,099 | 1,430 | 1,865 | 1,935 | 1,893 | 2,294 |
| England | 8,432 | 10,214 | 13,453 | 13,350 | 13,716 | 15,471 |

*£ per head*

| | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 140 | 166 | 195 | 191 | 196 | 215 |
| London | 322 | 361 | 601 | 531 | 563 | 614 |
| South East | 137 | 178 | 231 | 239 | 232 | 280 |
| England | 171 | 206 | 270 | 267 | 272 | 305 |

### Transport: Schools

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to encourage children to cycle to school. [168682]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department works closely with DCSF on the joint "Travelling to School" project, which encourages all forms of sustainable travel to school.

This project has been going since April 2004. Its funds enable local authorities to employ a network of around 250 school travel advisers and regional school travel advisers to work with schools to help them develop and implement school travel plans. Over 14,000 schools have already developed travel plans. It also supports capital grants for schools with travel plans which can be spent on, for example, cycle facilities.

In addition, we are supporting cycling to school by promoting Bikeability, the new National Standard cycle training scheme. Through Cycling England, we are investing £1.8 million this year alone in cycle training via local authorities and the Youth Sports Trust. We have also provided £16.2 million for the 'Links to Schools' programme and £1.6 million for the 'Bike It' scheme which works with schools to increase the number of young people cycling. These all contribute to the overall "Travelling to School" project.

### Transport: Tickets

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in work undertaken by her Department and Transport for London to ensure that Oyster cards are compatible with the Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation standard. [168613]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Oyster cards are the responsibility of the Mayor for London and it is therefore for him to consider, in the first instance, issues around compatibility with the ITSO standard. However, the Department for Transport continues to work closely with Transport for London to ensure the delivery of Oyster pay-as-you-go on national rail in London and that ITSO smartcards can be accepted by smartcard readers on the Transport for London estate. A detailed design study is on track to deliver a fixed price and delivery schedule for the roll-out of ITSO/Oyster dual-operable smartcard readers in April 2008.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers in England received incorrect payments under the 2006 single payment scheme. [167169]

**Jonathan Shaw:** It is not currently possible to give a definitive number of farmers in England who received incorrect payments under the 2006 single payment scheme.

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in making payments to farmers under the Single Farm Payment Scheme. [167858]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Secretary of State reported on 2 July 2007 that RPA had met its formal target for 2006 Single Payment Scheme payments.

The payment window for the 2007 scheme opens on 1 December 2007.

The Agency, with DEFRA's full support, is working towards making more full payments to more farmers earlier than last year, with a view to meeting its formal targets of making 75 per cent. of full payments by end of March 2008 and 90 per cent. by end of May 2008.

### Animal Experiments: BSE

**Mr. Walter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what Veterinary Laboratories Agency experiments have been conducted on cows fed with BSE infected material in the last 20 years; and what the results were. [167619]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* No studies have ever been conducted by VLA in which cattle were fed with BSE infected material.

Seven individual experiments have been conducted at VLA that involved the oral dosing of cattle with bovine brain tissue known to be infected with the BSE agent. The material, in the form of a suspension, was administered directly on to the back of the tongue with a syringe. These studies represent three clusters of experiments, with individual experiments within each cluster being related in terms of the objectives of the investigations conducted.

Two experiments investigated the susceptibility of calves to oral challenge to different doses of brain tissue, ranging from 300g to 1mg. A correlation was recognised between dose and the incubation period, but infection was achieved at all dose levels. Below a dose of 100g however, not all exposed calves became infected, and the efficiency of transmission declined with reducing dose. Although incomplete, data from these studies were published recently[1].

Three other experiments investigated the pathogenesis of BSE in cattle, although the latest, and largest, was primarily intended to provide tissues and fluids at varying time points in the incubation period to enable the evaluation of diagnostic tests. These studies involved the sequential slaughter of cattle, and collection of tissues, during the incubation period, from shortly after exposure to the point of clinical disease. There have been several publications that have described the scientific outcomes of the first pathogenesis study, but the most recent[2] summarises all previous results. Additional data from a smaller study, and an opportunistic evaluation of data from the largest pathogenesis study, have also been published recently[3, 4, 5].

The last two experiments were established to enable the collection of fluids, such as blood samples, during the course of the incubation period to enable their investigation as potential targets for diagnosis of BSE before onset of clinical disease. These transpired to be negative studies, not only in terms of tests investigated at VLA but also when materials were shared with other researchers. As a result, there have been no scientific publications related to these studies.

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[2] Wells, C. A. H.; Spiropoulos, J.; Hawkins, S. A. C., and Ryder, S. J. Pathogenesis of experimental bovine spongiform encephalopathy: Preclinical infectivity in tonsil and observations on the distribution of lingual tonsil in slaughtered cattle. (2005) Veterinary Record; 156 :401-407.

[3] Terry, L. A. ; Marsh, S. ; Ryder, S. J.; Hawkins, S. A. C.; Wells, G. A. H., and Spencer, Y. I.. Detection of disease-specific PrP in the distal ileum of cattle exposed orally to the agent of bovine spongiform encephalopathy. (2003); Veterinary Record. 152; 387-392.

[4] Wells, G. A H; Konold, T.; Arnold, M. E; Austin, A. R; Hawkins, S. A C; Stack, M.; Simmons, M. M; Lee, Y. H; Gavier-Widen, D.; Dawson, M., and Wilesmith, J. W. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: the Effect of Oral Exposure Dose on Attack Rate and Incubation Period in Cattle. (2007) Journal of General Virology. 88: 1363-1373.

[5] Masujin, K.; Matthews, D.; Wells, G. A. H.; Mohri, S., and Yokoyama, T. Prions in the Peripheral Nerves of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy-Affected Cattle. (2007) Journal of General Virology; 88:1850-1858.

### Animal Experiments: Sheep

**Mr. Walter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what Veterinary Laboratories Agency experiments concerning inbreeding have been carried out on sheep in the last 20 years; and what the results were. [167618]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* Although there have been experiments carried out at VLA that involved the breeding of sheep, there have been none concerning "inbreeding".

### Animal Welfare

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to bring forward the codes of practice provided for under the Animal Welfare Act 2006; and if he will make a statement. [167841]

**Jonathan Shaw:** During the passage of the Animal Welfare Bill, an undertaking was given to issue codes of practice on the welfare of cats and dogs, primates kept in private ownership and the rearing of game birds.

We are currently working on these codes and anticipate introducing them by early 2009. The codes will be subject to public consultation before being put to Parliament for approval.

### Animal Welfare: Circuses

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to introduce regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to ban the use of non-domestic animals in travelling circuses; and if he will make a statement. [167769]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: On 20 November, the independent Circus Working Group set up by DEFRA published its report on the welfare of non-domesticated animals in travelling circuses.

The Secretary of State's response to the report is available on the DEFRA website.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to bring forward regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 on animals in travelling circuses; and if he will make a statement. [167842]

**Jonathan Shaw:** On 20 November, the independent Circus Working Group, set up by DEFRA, published its report on the welfare of non-domesticated animals in travelling circuses.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's response to the report is available on the DEFRA website.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much he spent facilitating the Circus Working Group; and if he will make a statement. [167843]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No central record has been kept of the time spent by DEFRA officials and the other associated costs of facilitating the work of the Circus Working Group.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response he has made to the wild animals in travelling circuses report commissioned by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [168229]

**Jonathan Shaw:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State was grateful for the Group's work, which will contribute to the debate on the welfare of wild animals in circuses, and will consider the report's findings carefully.

The Government will now want to hear reactions to the report and consider its position.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition he uses of minimum welfare standards for performing animals, as referred to in the recent Report of the Chairman of the Circus Working Group; and if he will make a statement. [169541]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Welfare standards are currently set in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925. The recent report prepared by Mike Radford on wild animals in travelling circuses has recommended that additional regulatory protection should be considered.

### Animal Welfare: Finance

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated to local authorities for animal welfare in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2005-06. [168799]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Additional funding paid to local authorities for work done under the animal health and welfare framework agreement is set out in the following table:

| | *Funding (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 8.2 |
| 2006-07 | 8.7 |
| 2007-08 | [1]8.5 |

[1] Estimated

### Animals: Brazil

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make a statement on the recently published report by the EU Food and Veterinary Office on animal health controls in Brazil; [167166]

(2) which states in Brazil have *(a)* reported outbreaks of foot-and-mouth in the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* been subject to EU bans on imports of meat. [167168]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA is aware of the concerns being expressed about meat imported from Brazil. However, it is for the European Commission to follow up the recommendations in the EU Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) report through both the Brazilian authorities and further EU FVO missions. We are pressing the Commission for its response to the report.

Brazil has reported no outbreaks of foot and mouth disease to the World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE) during 2007. However, evidence of virus circulation in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul was detected through serological surveillance and this was reported to the OIE in February 2007.

Imports of de-boned and matured fresh meat (including chilled and frozen) are currently permitted only from the following states, or parts of states, of Brazil:

i. Espíritu Santo;

ii. Goias;

iii. Rio Grande do Sul;

iv. Santa Catarina;

v. Parts of Mato Grosso;

vi. Parts of Minas Gerais.

### Badgers: Disease Control

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to cull badgers. [169547]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No decision has been made on whether badger culling has a role to play in controlling bovine TB in cattle. We are currently considering this complex issue, taking into account all the available evidence, including the final report of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG) and the assessment of the scientific evidence made by the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir David King. We will be discussing the matter with interested parties, including Professor John Bourne, former Chair of the ISG, and Sir David King, and will take account

of the views of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee following its inquiry into badgers and bovine TB.

While we are keen to make progress on reaching a decision, there is no specific timetable for doing so.

### Bovine Tuberculosis: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the prevalence of bovine TB in Gloucestershire and measures to counter bovine TB. [167856]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* There are currently 1,140 cattle herds in Gloucestershire. On 30 September, 249 herds (17.3 per cent.) of herds in the county were under TB movement restrictions.[1]

We recognise that the level of bovine TB (bTB) in cattle in Gloucestershire and across Great Britain is unacceptably high, and that some areas of the country are becoming more affected. In line with the 'GB Strategic Framework for the Control of Bovine TB', we are tailoring our policies to take account of the regional variation of disease risk as well as reflecting emerging evidence. Working on these principles, we have introduced measures such as pre-movement testing for cattle moving out of high risk herds. We have also extended the use of the gamma interferon blood test (alongside the TB skin test) to improve the sensitivity of our testing regime and identify more infected animals more quickly.

We will continue to work in partnership with interested parties to embed and monitor these measures. We have also recently developed revised TB husbandry guidance in association with the Bovine TB Husbandry Working Group, and published two free guidance booklets for farmers, to help them prevent bTB in their herds.

Looking ahead, DEFRA funds a wide-ranging bTB research programme and we will continue to use emerging evidence to inform our policies for the future. In June, the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB published its final report which adds to the scientific evidence base. We are now considering carefully the issues raised in the report and we will work with farmers, Government advisers and scientific experts in reaching final policy decisions on these.

[1] TB movement restrictions imposed for any reason (TB incident, overdue TB test etc.). Provisional data subject to change.

### Circuses

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether new primary legislation would be necessary to amend the regulation of travelling circuses; and if he will make a statement. [168230]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Primary legislation would be required if it was proposed to place a prohibition on the use of animals in circuses.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167383]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA aims to reply to the public's letters within 15 working days. So far this year, 92 per cent. of our responses have met this target.

For ministerial correspondence, I refer the hon. Member to the latest annual report on Departments' and agencies' correspondence-handling. This was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS. Information for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the calendar year.

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168109]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Although information on the nationality of candidates is collected as part of the recruitment process, the nationality of members of staff is not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164928]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Three civil servants support the special advisers. They all provide administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. They also provide support to the private offices.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned.

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167274]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA was created in June 2001 and the information provided relates to the period since then.

The number of secondments made to or from DEFRA since June 2001 and the total number of secondments each year was as follows:

| | To | From | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 25 | 18 | 43 |
| 2002 | 45 | 54 | 99 |
| 2003 | 69 | 73 | 142 |
| 2004 | 64 | 85 | 149 |
| 2005 | 103 | 83 | 186 |
| 2006 | 82 | 145 | 227 |
| 2007 | 42 | 47 | 89 |

The lengths of the secondments in each year were as follows:

| | Less than one year | One to two years | Two to three years | Three to four years | Four to five years | Five years and over | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 43 |
| 2002 | 30 | 29 | 14 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 99 |
| 2003 | 55 | 41 | 20 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 142 |
| 2004 | 50 | 54 | 23 | 19 | 3 | 0 | 149 |
| 2005 | 53 | 75 | 43 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 186 |
| 2006 | 78 | 76 | 56 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 227 |
| 2007 | 23 | 40 | 18 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 89 |

Information on which organisations staff were seconded to and from, and what the cost was of each secondment in each year could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Sustainable Development

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department is working towards accreditation to a certified environmental management system such as ISO14001 or EMAS for *(a)* its whole estate or *(b)* some of its buildings. [167811]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has 53 sites across the entire estate which falls within the scope of its Environmental Management System (EMS). Of these, 88 per cent. (based on floor space) are accredited to ISO14001. DEFRA is working towards accreditation for all sites falling within the parameters of the EMS within its entire estate not yet accredited.

The Department has an active and on-going programme of assessment for certification of sites currently working towards accreditation and a continuing programme of re-assessment for all sites already accredited to the standard.

### Early Retirement

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many employees in his Department have been offered early retirement in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [168946]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* In the last six months 161 employees of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have been offered early retirement. To date, 135 of these have accepted the offer. A further 230 employees, aged under 50, have been offered early severance in the same period and of those, to date, 167 have accepted the offer. The scheme has been open to core DEFRA staff only and does not include agencies.

### EU Subsidies: Sugar

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the payment of an EU subsidy to British Sugar; who will qualify; and if he will make a statement. [167750]

**Jonathan Shaw:** An application for aid has been made by British Sugar under the EU's sugar restructuring scheme. If the application is successful, a fixed 10 per cent. of the aid is available to beet growers and machinery contractors who are affected by the restructuring process. The application is under consideration.

### Farms: West Yorkshire

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average price of farmland per acre is in West Yorkshire; what estimate he has made of changes in the price over the last 10 years; what his assessment is of the effect of such changes; and if he will make a statement. [168127]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table shows the average prices per hectare of agricultural land-only sales in West Yorkshire compared with averages for England. Data are only available for 1998 to 2004.

| | | Average price (£ per Ha) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of sales in West Yorkshire | West Yorkshire—Land only | England—Land only |
| 1998 | 36 | 4,976 | 5,414 |
| 1999 | 19 | 5,627 | 5,282 |

| | Number of sales in West Yorkshire | Average price (£ per Ha) West Yorkshire—Land only | England—Land only |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 20 | 6,524 | 5,603 |
| 2001 | 17 | 7,786 | 5,674 |
| 2002 | 16 | 5,951 | 5,488 |
| 2003 | 16 | 11,056 | 5,390 |
| 2004 | 9 | 11,621 | 6,131 |

*Source:*
Based on data supplied by the Valuations Office

These estimates are based on land sales and, as a result, do not represent the value of all land in West Yorkshire. The volatility of the average sale prices in West Yorkshire from 1998 to 2004 is likely to be due to the relatively small number of sales on which the estimates are based.

### Fish: Imports

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he has made a recent assessment of the market impact of the importing of fish and shellfish into the UK for *(a)* retail and *(b)* consumption from (i) European Union and (ii) non-European Union countries which would have been illegal had they been landed in the UK; [169414]

(2) what estimate he has made of the annual volume of imported fish from *(a)* other European Union and *(b)* non-European Union countries into the UK for consumption which would not have been caught legally had they been landed in the UK. [169415]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information on the volume and value of imports of fish and fish products broken down between European Union and non-European Union countries is published in Chapter 4 of the annual United Kingdom Sea Fisheries Statistics Tables published by the Marine and Fisheries Agency. Copies of the latest edition with data for 2006 have been placed in the Libraries of the House. A further breakdown between those for retail and direct consumption is not available, and an assessment with regards to whether the imports would have been regarded as illegal if they had been landed in the UK, has not been carried out.

### Fisheries: Standards

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has considered the merits of ensuring that minimum fish and shellfish sizes applied to UK fisheries landings are also applied to imports of fish and shellfish from *(a)* European Union and *(b)* non-European Union countries. [169407]

**Jonathan Shaw:** My Department has not undertaken a consideration along the lines suggested. However, we do apply the EU rules equally to UK fishermen and of those from other member states landing into ports in England and Wales.

### Food: Pesticides

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what limits have been placed on the pesticides used on food imported *(a)* from within the EU and *(b)* from outside the EU. [166779]

**Mr. Woolas:** There are well established regulatory controls governing the use of pesticides within the European Community, involving a combination of national authorisation systems and authorisations based on harmonised standards under Council Directive 91/414/EEC.

Food marketed in the UK, whatever its country of origin, must comply with relevant maximum residue levels (MRLs) laid down in the Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended). Separate but similar legislation applies in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Fully harmonised MRLs are due to be introduced by Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 around mid-2008.

### Gleathorpe Cottages

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many commercial valuations his Department has made of Gleathorpe Cottages, Meden Vale, Nottinghamshire in 2007. [167689]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Department has instructed only one firm of residential surveyors to value the residential properties at the former ADAS Farm, Gleadthorpe for the purposes of calculating offers to the tenants under the right to buy. I understand that ADAS may have instructed three firms of surveyors to provide valuations for their own purposes.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons 30 November has been set as the deadline for the sale of Gleathorpe Cottages, Meden Vale, Nottinghamshire. [167690]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Department has not set a deadline for the sale of the cottages. 'Right-to-buy' offers have been made to 13 of the 15 tenants providing the opportunity to acquire the property they occupy at the maximum discount available under the 'right-to-buy' provisions. The Department has asked that the tenants respond by 30 November indicating whether they wish to take up the offer to buy under the 'right-to-buy' provisions.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average length of occupancy is of former ADAS Consulting Ltd. workers resident in Gleathorpe Cottages, Meden Vale, Nottinghamshire. [167691]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Department is not in receipt of the full tenancy history of the cottages at Gleadthorpe because the occupational arrangements have been created over time by ADAS and its predecessor agency. The Department has been able to ascertain from the available records that the average occupation for the known tenancies is 20 years and that 13 of the 15 residential tenants have been in occupation in excess of 10 years.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 868W, on home energy efficiency scheme, who is responsible for paying the administration fees for warm front vouchers; and what the procedure is for making those payments. [168913]

**Mr. Woolas:** For each voucher claimed, the management fees paid to the scheme manager at eaga plc, are shared between DEFRA and the installer.

Once the work is completed, the installer submits the £300 voucher to the scheme manager, who deducts a £50 administration charge and makes a payment of £250 to the installer.

Additional management fees are paid to the scheme manager by DEFRA on a monthly basis.

### Livestock: Disease Control

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition he uses of premises in animal health controls, especially in regard to *(a)* different physical areas, separated by land under different ownership but owned by one individual or business, and *(b)* two notional premises but within the same ownership and on adjoining pieces of land within a ring fence. [165496]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Legislation controlling foot and mouth disease and avian influenza defines premises as "any land, building or other place", and bluetongue legislation defines premises as "any place". The extent of a premises depends on a number of practical factors for the purposes of disease control, but not on the ownership of the land.

The movement of animals will usually be from one premises to another. In this context, different parcels of land, separated by other parcels of land, are defined as different premises.

However, when imposing restrictions on, for example, farms where disease is suspected, the degree of common management is fully considered when establishing the physical extent of the restrictions over different parcels of land, which may then be defined as the same 'premises'.

### Livestock: Waste Disposal

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Fallen Stock Disposal Scheme. [167857]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Government are satisfied with the effectiveness and efficiency of the arrangements for collecting and disposing of fallen stock under both the continuing National Fallen Stock Scheme and the temporary Culled and Fallen Stock Disposal Scheme. The temporary scheme was set up on 24 October to assist farmers facing movement restrictions in the foot and mouth disease Restricted Zone. It closed on 19 November when the Zone was lifted.

### Nitrate Sensitive Areas

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what studies have been *(a)* conducted and *(b)* assessed by his Department on nitrate levels in (i) rivers and (ii) other sensitive areas. [166778]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Nitrates Directive requires that a review of designations is carried out at least every four years. The implications from the most recent review are considered in a DEFRA consultation, issued in August 2007.

The consultation exercise proposes new measures to deal with nitrogen pollution from agricultural sources, and sets out the supporting evidence and other material. The closing date for comments is 13 December 2007.

### Nitrates: Concrete

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessments he has made of the effect on the environment of the use of concrete to prevent the leakage of nitrates into the ground. [166781]

**Mr. Woolas:** We have not made an assessment of the impact on the environment of constructing concrete platforms for this purpose.

### Pesticides

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what pesticides have been banned for use *(a)* for reasons of public health and *(b)* for other reasons. [166777]

**Mr. Woolas:** The following active substances are prohibited from use in plant protection products anywhere in the European Community because of their risks to health or the environment:

Mercuric oxide (mercury oxide);
Mercurous chloride (calomel);
Other inorganic mercury compounds;
Alkyl mercury compounds;
Alkoxyalkyl and aryl mercury compounds;
Camphechlor;
Ethylene oxide;
Nitrofen;
1,2-Dibromoethane
1,2-Dichloroethane;
Dinoseb, its acetate and salts;
Binapacryl;

Captafol;

Dicofol containing less than 78 per cent. of p,p.1—dicofol or more than 1g/kg DDT and DDT related compounds;

Maleic hydrazide and its salts, other than its choline, potassium and sodium salts;

Choline, potassium and sodium salts of maleic hydrazide containing more than 1mg/kg of free hydrazine expressed on the basis of the acid equivalent;

Quintozene containing more than 1g/kg of HCB or more than 10g/kg pentachlorobenzene;

Aldrin;

Chlordane;

Chlordecone;

Dieldrin;

DDT;

Endrin;

HCH;

Heptachlor;

Hexachlorobenzene;

Mirex;

Toxaphene.

In addition, many pesticide active substances have been withdrawn from use following reviews conducted both within the UK and by the European Community.

### Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what effect the Renewable Fuel Transport Obligation has had on crop prices; and if he will make a statement. [167853]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* As part of the Government's Climate Change programme, a Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) will be introduced in 2008. It will require transport fuel suppliers to ensure that 5 per cent. of their fuel sales are from a renewable source by 2010.

It is unlikely that the RTFO has had any discernable effect on crop prices to date. Current high cereals prices are due to global factors, including two successive lower world wheat harvests, low global stocks and increased demand for cereals from the food, feed and fuels sectors. Growing global demand for biofuels can be expected to increase crop prices but also the supply of crops in the future.

Analysis by the European Commission assessing the impact of the 10 per cent. (by energy) biofuel target for 2020 indicates that prices for agricultural raw materials in the European Union (EU) would increase by 3 per cent. to 6 per cent. for cereals and 5 per cent. to 18 per cent. for oilseeds. This took into account, potential in the EU to increase production in response to additional demand, and a future contribution from second generation biofuels which can use non-food feedstocks, including waste.

The Government recognise that a balance is needed between using available land for food and non-food purposes. We will monitor how markets are affected by growing biofuel demand and will tailor policies accordingly.

### Rural Payments Agency: Aviation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of air travel by officials of the Rural Payments Agency was in 2006-07; and how much carbon dioxide was offset in relation to these flights. [164508]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The cost of air travel by Rural Payment Agency (RPA) officials in 2006-07 was £344,921.84.

While the RPA does not currently offset its carbon emissions it plans to do so in the near future and is actively looking at the possibility of backdating this offsetting using the fund being developed by DEFRA. More generally, the RPA takes sustainable development issues seriously. In 2006 all main RPA sites achieved the ISO 14001 environmental management standard and currently RPA is developing a revised set of targets for its sustainable development action plan.

### Sheep Dipping

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research the Government is *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* funding on alternatives to organophosphate sheep dip. [168059]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA and the Scottish Government have been funding research into alternatives to conventional veterinary medicines for control of sheep scab for several years. The projects and costs are listed in the following table.

*Projects to investigate the alternatives to conventional sheep dips for the control of scab*

OD0535 Novel biologically based control methods of the sheep scab mite preliminary investigations

Funding DEFRA £24,000

Project completed and further information available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www2.defra.gov.uk/research/project_data/More.asp?I=OD0535&M=KWS&V#Time

OD0536 Biochemical and physiological studies to identify potential targets for the control of Psoroptes ovis

Funding: DEFRA £314,341; Scottish Government £70,000

Project completed and report available on the DEFRA website at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=9539&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=OD0536&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description

OD0537 Biochemical and immunological studies in sheep infected with the mite, Psoroptes ovis

Funding: DEFRA £586,725; Scottish Government £70,000

Project completed and report available on the DEFRA website at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=9541&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=OD0537&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description

OD0538 Studies on the biological control of sheep scab mite, Psoroptes ovis, using entomopathogenic fungi.

Funding: DEFRA £309,321

Project completed and report available on the DEFRA website at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=9543&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=OD0538&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description

OD0539 Potential targets for biologically based novel methods of control of the sheep scab mite by study of its basic biology and endocrinology.

Funding: DEFRA £348,813; Scottish Government £70,000

Project completed and report available on the DEFRA website at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=9545&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=OD0539&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description

OD0544 Immunological approaches to the control of sheep scab mite.

Funding: DEFRA £769,799

Project Completed and report available at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=12320&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=OD0544&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description

OD0545 Studies on the biological control of the sheep scab mite Psoroptes ovis.

Funding: DEFRA £639,249

Project Completed and report available on the DEFRA website at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=12321&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText:=OD0545&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description

OD0546 Feasibility of using biological studies to develop novel control of the sheep scab mite.

Funding: DEFRA £328,096

Project continuing. Abstract available at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=12322&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=OD0546&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description

OD0552 Identification of novel control methods through better understanding of the biology and physiology of the sheep scab mite.

Funding: DEFRA £351,133

Project continuing. Abstract available at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=15199&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=sheep%20scab&GridPage=1&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description

OD0553 Investigation of the potential for the control of sheep scab using immunological approaches and the development of diagnostic tools.

Funding: DEFRA £734,294

Project continuing. Abstract available at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu-Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=15200&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=OD0553&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department makes available on the use of organophosphate sheep dip. [168060]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The DEFRA, Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and Environment Agency (EA) websites provide advice on the use and disposal of sheep dip.

Advice from VMD and the EA covers:

safety to the animals, the operators and the environment;

purchasing and transport of the sheep dip product;

the requirement for a responsible person to hold a Certificate of Competence and for that person to supervise others operating the dips;

the siting of the dip baths to minimise the risk of the sheep dip product entering watercourses;

the storage, treatment and disposal of spent dip;

record keeping;

emergencies, i.e. what to do if a person comes into direct contact with the sheep dip.

Advice from DEFRA covers the Groundwater Protection Code—Use and disposal of sheep dip compounds.

Both the VMD and EA websites include links to the Pollution Reduction Programme (PRP) which promotes the safe use of sheep dips.

The VMD website also contains a link to the HSE document AS29 entitled Sheep Dipping—Advice for Farmers and Others involved in Dipping Sheep.

In addition to the website information, an accompanying safety checklist poster must be supplied to each purchaser of sheep dip products at the time of purchase. Also, a NFU poster 'Stop every drop', which was produced as a direct result of the joint VMD/EA Pollution Reduction Plan has been sent to all 51,000 sheep farmers on the British Wool Marketing Board's database.

The relevant links are as follows:

Groundwater Protection Code:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/ground/sheepdip/pdf/Code.pdf

VMD:

http://www.vmd.gov.uk/General/sheepdip/sheepdips.htm

EA:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research jointly with the Department of Health looking into genetic susceptibility to nervous disorders as a result of using organophosphate sheep dips. [168061]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government has funded a number of research projects into the possible effects in humans of exposure to organophosphates (OPs), in particular OP based sheep dips. This research forms a key part of the Government's four point plan on OPs announced in December 1999.

The research was commissioned following the 1999 Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT) report entitled "Organophosphates" in which five

recommendations for further research were made. The Government have asked COT

> "to advise on whether prolonged or repeated low level exposure to OPs, or acute exposure to OPs at a lower dose than causing frank intoxication, can cause chronic ill-health effects".

In addition, Government R and D funds have also been used to commission several other projects on OPs and human health.

On genetic susceptibility, COT recommended that research should be undertaken to show whether people with chronic disabling illness that is suspected of being related to OPs differ metabolically from the general population. The project on the genetic variation in susceptibility to chronic effects of organophosphate exposure has been completed and the final report is on the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) website:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr408.htm.

A related study entitled "Genetic and other sources of variation in the activity of serum paraoxonase in humans: consequences for the risk from exposure to diazinon" has been published in Pharmacogenet, Genomics, 2005 January; 15(1): p51-60.

COT reviewed the research arising from their recommendations along with all other Government-funded research into OPs on 4 September 2007. In reviewing the above work, COT concluded that the results may have reflected genetic differences in susceptibility to ill health, but that if so, these were unlikely to be related to organophosphate toxicity.

COT noted that, as some of the research projects commissioned as a result of their 1999 recommendations had yet to be completed, they would need to revisit the work when all the final reports have been received. COT also advised that the final review should consider the Government-funded research in the wider context of all research on OPs and human health. Once the final review is received from COT, the Government will consider this and the need for any research which might be identified as part of an integrated programme of work. Currently, there are no plans to commission any further research on genetic susceptibility to nervous disorders as a result of using organophosphate sheep dips.

### Shellfish: Canada

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has *(a)* received and *(b)* made in respect of the importing of Canadian lobsters into the UK. [169416]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA has neither made nor received any representations about imports of Canadian lobsters.

### Sugar Beet

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on the proposals of UK sugar beet growers that British Sugar's application to the EU Restructuring Scheme should be linked to a plan to recompense those growers who lost their sugar-growing enterprises as a result of the closure of the York and Allscot factories. [168348]

**Jonathan Shaw:** British Sugar's application, including this element, is under active consideration and we shall announce in due course the envisaged distribution of EU Restructuring Aid in the event that the application is approved.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from sugar beet growers in the areas of the now closed York and Allscot factories seeking compensation as part of the reform of the EU sugar regime. [168349]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Representations, to the effect that beet growers who formerly supplied the Allscott and York sugar factories should be entitled to an element of any EU Restructuring Aid made available in the UK, have been received on their behalf from the National Farmers Union.

### Veterinary Services: Finance

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written answer of 20 November 2007 to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (164336), if he will list *(a)* in total and *(b)* in respect of each local authority (i) the value of bids submitted to divisional veterinary managers (DVMs) and certified by the DVMs as eligible for additional resources under the Revenue Support Grant for work on animal health and welfare for 2007-08 and (ii) the funding allocations made by his Department in response to those bids. [167846]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The forecasts submitted by local authorities through the divisional veterinary managers (DVMs) for direct funding under the Animal Health and Welfare framework agreement, and the funding allocations made by DEFRA, are given in the following table. This year, the total bids received, some of which arrived well into the new financial year, amounted to £9.77 million. The funding available was £8.5 million. This direct funding from DEFRA is in addition to the Revenue Support Grant that all local authorities receive.

| *Local authority* | *Forecast* | £ *Allocation* |
|---|---|---|
| Barnsley MBC | 25,860.48 | 23,274.00 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 66,685.00 | 60,017.00 |
| Bedfordshire CC | 53,716.32 | 48,345.00 |
| Birmingham CC | 30,350.49 | 27,315.00 |
| Blackburn with Darwen BC | 6,052.00 | 6,052.00 |
| Blackpool | 385.40 | 385.00 |
| Blaenau Gwent CBC | 18,305.52 | 16,841.00 |
| Bolton Metro | 13,269.84 | 12,208.00 |
| Bradford MBC | 43,422.24 | 39,080.00 |
| Bridgend CBC | 39,402.00 | 35,462.00 |
| Buckinghamshire CC | 101,050.00 | 88,924.00 |
| Bury MBC | 2,901.00 | 2,901.00 |
| Caerphilly CBC | 25,023.00 | 22,521.00 |
| Calderdale MBC | 63,226.80 | 56,904.00 |
| Cambridgeshire CC | 81,083.44 | 72,975.00 |
| Cardiff CC | 7,102.73 | 7,103.00 |

| Local authority | Forecast | £ Allocation |
|---|---|---|
| Carmarthenshire CC | 218,519.40 | 192,297.00 |
| Ceredigion CC | 221,719.00 | 195,113.00 |
| Cheshire CC | 103,000.00 | 90,640.00 |
| City of London (Chelmsford) | 10,179.92 | 10,180.00 |
| City of London (Reigate) | 13,774.82 | 12,673.00 |
| City of London (Wokingham and Reading) | 11,796.00 | 10,852.00 |
| City of York | 12,576.00 | 11,570.00 |
| Conwy CBC | 166,005.08 | 146,084.00 |
| Cornwall CC | 159,552.00 | 140,406.00 |
| Coventry | 8,020.00 | 8,020.00 |
| Cumbria CC | 335,731.00 | 295,443.00 |
| Darlington BC | 40,721.52 | 36,649.00 |
| Denbighshire CC | 154,969.00 | 136,373.00 |
| Derby City | 11,904.00 | 10,952.00 |
| Derbyshire CC | 226,263.40 | 199,112.00 |
| Devon CC | 569,014.36 | 500,733.00 |
| Doncaster MBC | 51,618.30 | 46,456.00 |
| Dorset CC | 132,312.00 | 116,435.00 |
| Dudley | 19,427.88 | 17,874.00 |
| Durham CC | 90,630.00 | 81,567.00 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 238,133.96 | 209,558.00 |
| East Sussex CC | 59,700.00 | 53,730.00 |
| Essex CC | 172,539.00 | 151,834.00 |
| Flintshire CC | 82,212.00 | 73,991.00 |
| Gateshead | 5,748.00 | 5,748.00 |
| Gloucestershire CC | 219,000.00 | 192,720.00 |
| Gwynedd | 148,792.00 | 130,937.00 |
| Halton | 2,657.40 | 2,657.00 |
| Hampshire | 42,342.00 | 38,108.00 |
| Hartlepool | 4,550.00 | 4,550.00 |
| Herefordshire CC | 136,099.96 | 119,768.00 |
| Hertfordshire CC | 29,206.00 | 26,285.00 |
| Isle of Anglesey CC | 109,139.26 | 96,043.00 |
| Isle of Wight | 36,054.00 | 32,449.00 |
| Kent CC | 235,215.36 | 206,990.00 |
| Kirklees MC | 32,952.00 | 29,657.00 |
| Lancashire CC | 386,604.00 | 340,212.00 |
| Leeds CC | 32,276.52 | 29,049.00 |
| Leicestershire CC | 69,924.00 | 62,932.00 |
| Lincolnshire CC | 197,376.00 | 173,691.00 |
| Medway CC | 9,158.88 | 9,159.00 |
| Merthyr Tydfil CBC | 74,284.00 | 66,856.00 |
| Middlesbrough | 936.00 | 936.00 |
| Milton Keynes | 52,257.60 | 47,032.00 |
| Monmouthshire CC Incl Torfean | 145,589.00 | 128,705.00 |
| Newcastle CC | 39,120.00 | 35,208.00 |
| Newport CC | 78,235.20 | 70,412.00 |
| Norfolk CC | 146,913.40 | 129,284.00 |
| North Lincolnshire | 26,136.00 | 23,522.00 |
| North Somerset C | 33,508.68 | 30,158.00 |
| North Tyneside | 13,512.00 | 12,431.00 |
| North Yorkshire CC | 471,240.00 | 414,691.00 |
| Northamptonshire CC | 96,804.00 | 85,188.00 |
| Northumberland CC | 202,701.00 | 178,377.00 |
| Nottinghamshire CC | 101,730.00 | 89,521.00 |
| Oldham MBC | 64,553.88 | 58,098.00 |
| Oxfordshire CC | 126,850.97 | 111,629.00 |
| Pembrokeshire CC | 151,884.00 | 133,658.00 |
| Peterborough | 13,769.26 | 12,668.00 |
| Powys CC | 287,795.00 | 253,260.00 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 9,156.92 | 9,157.00 |
| Rhondda Cynon TAF | 56,287.80 | 50,659.00 |
| Rochdale | 5,357.34 | 5,357.00 |
| Rotherham MBC | 36,876.00 | 33,188.00 |
| Rutland CC | 11,781.00 | 10,839.00 |
| Sandwell MBC | 6,356.72 | 6,357.00 |
| Sefton CC | 4,993.60 | 4,994.00 |
| Sheffield CC | 40,187.80 | 36,169.00 |
| Shropshire CC | 144,696.00 | 127,332.00 |
| Solihull MBC | 19,687.50 | 18,113.00 |
| Somerset CC | 255,078.52 | 224,469.00 |
| South Gloucester | 73,677.00 | 66,309.00 |
| South Tyneside | 6,662.00 | 6,662.00 |
| Staffordshire Cc | 305,416.68 | 268,767.00 |
| Stockton | 14,921.12 | 13,727.00 |
| Stoke on Trent | 8,570.00 | 8,570.00 |
| Suffolk | 137,367.96 | 120,884.00 |
| Sunderland | 765.00 | 765.00 |
| Surrey CC | 150,956.00 | 132,841.00 |
| Swindon BC | 5,242.20 | 5,242.00 |
| Tameside MBC | 630.00 | 630.00 |
| Telford and Wrekin Borough | 34,020.00 | 30,618.00 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 25,944.00 | 23,350.00 |
| Wakefield MBC | 32,566.75 | 29,310.00 |
| Walsall M.B.C | 4,423.52 | 4,424.00 |
| Warrington BC | 9,490.68 | 9,491.00 |
| Warwickshire CC | 149,580.00 | 131,630.00 |
| West Berkshire CC | 30,068.00 | 27,061.00 |
| West Glamorgan | 73,796.00 | 66,416.00 |
| West Sussex CC | 49,714.20 | 44,743.00 |
| Wigan Council | 9,039.00 | 9,039.00 |
| Wiltshire CC | 67,740.00 | 60,966.00 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 38,380.08 | 34,542.00 |
| Wolverhampton CC | 3,958.84 | 3,959.00 |
| Worcestershire CC | 258,760.32 | 227,709.00 |
| Wrexham CBC | 63,597.00 | 57,237.00 |
| Total | 9,658,815.82 | 8,562,964.00 |

*Note:*
There have been a number of minor revisions and adjustments to the figures since the previous answer.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Central Sponsor for Information Assurance Unit: Data Protection

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) when he last met members of the Central Sponsor for Information Assurance Unit to discuss information security; [168801]

(2) what meetings he has had with ministerial colleagues in other Departments to discuss information assurance in the last 12 months. [168802]

**Edward Miliband** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]*: Cabinet Office Ministers have a wide range of meetings with officials and ministerial colleagues on a number of policy issues. It is not the Government's practice to disclose details of these meetings.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Leader of the House whether her Office's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168742]

**Helen Goodman:** Information technology and data management systems used by the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons are BS7799 compliant.

## WALES

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if his Department will undertake a review of its compliance with data protection laws; [168072]

(2) on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168265]

(3) how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of his Department has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168285]

**Mr. Hain:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168738]

**Mr. Hain:** All Government Departments are required to ensure that their information technology and data management systems meet the Government standard (known as HMG Infosec Standard 2) which is aligned to BS7799.

Ministry of Justice provides all information technology and data management systems to the Wales Office.

All organisations brought together as MoJ in May 2007 comply with the Government standard, and therefore meet the principles of BS7799.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168823]

(2) how many breaches of data protection security there were in his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168833]

**Mr. Hain:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials in his Department have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167923]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

### Departmental Manpower

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168096]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Office in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [168694]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office was established in 1999 and has always had staff on loan from other Government Departments. Loans have predominantly been from the Welsh Assembly Government. Between 1999 and 2004, the vast majority of staff were on loan to the Wales Office, and since then it has reduced to around 50 per cent. of the total headcount.

Numbers of staff, home departments and costs are not available in the format requested, and obtaining this information could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people under the age of 16 years were charged with alcohol related offences in each of the last three years for which figures are available, broken down by police basic command unit. [168696]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office does not hold data on the number of people charged by the police for alcohol related offences.

### Anabolic Steroids: Crime

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* arrested, *(c)* charged and *(d)* convicted of (i) possession of and (ii) supplying anabolic steroids in the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [165942]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information has been supplied by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Information on the number of people cautioned, proceeded against and convicted of possession and supplying anabolic steroids in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2005 is given in tables 1 and 2. Data for 2006 will be available in late November of 2007.

Information on charging is not held centrally, but proceeded against data has been provided in the following table.

The arrests collection undertaken by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform only provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, drugs offences etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

The Scottish Executive have advised that the information requested is not held centrally.

The Northern Ireland Office advises that data relating to the 'offence of supplying anabolic steroids' are not available. It is only possible to provide prosecution, conviction and sentencing information relating to Class C drugs which includes tranquilisers and other drugs.

*Number of persons cautioned for offences under The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Sections 4(3)(a), 4(3)(b), 4(3)(c), 5(2), and 5(3), for the years 1997 to 2005 in England and Wales[1, 2, 3]*

| | *Offence description* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (or being concerned in)-S.4(3) [Class 'C' Drug]-Anabolic steroids* | *Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply-Anabolic steroids* | *Having possession of a controlled drug-Anabolic steroids* |
| 1997 | — | 3 | 14 |
| 1998 | — | 1 | 18 |
| 1999 | 1 | — | 8 |
| 2000 | — | — | 7 |
| 2001 | 1 | — | 4 |
| 2002 | — | — | 4 |
| 2003 | — | 1 | 3 |
| 2004 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| 2005 | 1 | 2 | 18 |

— Nil

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

Source:

Court proceedings database held by RDS-OCJR, Ministry of Justice

Our reference: PQ 165942 (Table 1)

*Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for offences under The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Sections 4(3)(a), 4(3)(b), 4(3)(c), 5(2), and 5(3), for the years 1997 to 2005 in England and Wales*[1, 2, 3]

| | *Offence description* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Proceeded against* | | | *Found guilty* | | |
| | *Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (or being concerned in): S4(3) [Class 'C' Drug]-Anabolic steroids* | *Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply-Anabolic steroids* | *Having possession of a controlled drug-Anabolic steroids* | *Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (or being concerned in): S4(3) [Class 'C' Drug]-Anabolic steroids* | *Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply-Anabolic steroids* | *Having possession of a controlled drug-Anabolic steroids* |
| 1997 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 1998 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1999 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 2000 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2001 | 2 | 1 | 256 | 3 | 0 | 240 |
| 2002 | 0 | 1 | 402 | 2 | 2 | 368 |
| 2003 | 9 | 4 | 341 | 3 | 2 | 321 |
| 2004 | 3 | 6 | 92 | 3 | 6 | 74 |
| 2005 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 4 | 5 | 8 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
*Source:*
Court proceedings database held by RDS-OCJR, Ministry of Justice
Our reference: PQ 165942 (Table 2)

## Animal Experiments: Licensing

**Mr. Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans she has to *(a)* reduce information requirements and *(b)* streamline transaction processes for applications for project licences for scientific procedures on animals; [167696]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the costs to animal research businesses and other organisations of applications for project licences for scientific procedures on animals. [167698]

**Meg Hillier** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Home Office Simplification Plan published in December 2006 includes a target to reduce the compliance costs arising from the regulation of animal experiments by 25 per cent. by 2010, whilst maintaining proper provision for animal welfare. Work towards the target is being taken forward in a dedicated better regulation programme. This work includes looking at how we might reduce information requirements and streamline transaction processes for applications for project licences under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Since January 2007, we have delivered a number of quick wins involving improvements to forms and processes and we have also completed preliminary work, including consultation with practitioners, to identify potential options for longer term improvements to our regulatory processes. Amongst other things, we are now working on the development of a new, shorter project licence application form and project licence templates and worked examples.

We have not separately estimated the costs to the scientific community associated with applications for project licences. However, an administrative burden on business, excluding the academic sector, has been identified and priced at £6.95 million per annum. These costs include those arising from all aspects of regulation under the 1986 Act, including personal and project licences, certificates of designation, local ethical review processes and training.

## Antisocial Behaviour Orders

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the breach rate of antisocial behaviour orders. [167537]

**Mr. Coaker:** The latest data available for the breach rate for antisocial behaviour orders is for the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2005 and is 47 per cent. overall (57 per cent. for juveniles and 41 per cent. for adults with 3 per cent. age unknown). Analysis of the 2003 ASBO breach data showed that 55 per cent. of those who breached their ASBO received a custodial sentence, the average length of which was three to six months.

## Assets Recovery Agency: Belfast

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by the Assets Recovery Agency in Belfast on *(a)* salaries, *(b)* travel and *(c)* subsistence in each financial year since its creation. [168491]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is set out in the table.

*Assets Recovery Agency—Belfast*

| | *Salaries* | *Travel* | *Subsistence* | £ *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 853,290.71 | 132,669.13 | 10,198.68 | 996,158.52 |
| 2004-05 | 1,140,561.60 | 122,309.70 | 8,198.28 | 1,271,069.58 |
| 2005-06 | 1,744,716.65 | 215,453.24 | 16,602.17 | 1,976,772.06 |
| 2006-07 | 1,626,255.58 | 114,016.31 | 16,331.58 | 1,756,603.47 |

## Asylum: Essex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children seeking asylum were resident in (i) Southend and (ii) each local authority in Essex in (A) the latest period for which figures are available, (B) 1997, (C) 2001, (D) 2005 and (E) 2006. [167396]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records, at disproportionate cost.

Statistics on supported asylum seekers, broken down by age, are not available. The location of those asylum seekers not in receipt of support is not available.

Separate arrangements exist for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), who are supported by local authorities; the local authority receives funding from the Home Office for this purpose. As at the end of March 2007 an estimated 5,000 UASCs were supported by local authorities; this figure is based on the latest available management information and a regional breakdown is not available.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Further breakdowns, of those in receipt of support by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

## Asylum: Newcastle upon Tyne

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* entered and *(b)* left accommodation supported by the National Asylum Support Service or the Border and Immigration Agency in Newcastle upon Tyne in each quarter in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [168888]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records, at disproportionate cost.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support broken down by Government office region and local authority are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Further breakdowns, of those in receipt of support by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

## Asylum: Religious Freedom

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted asylum on grounds of religious persecution in each year since 2002, broken down by country of origin. [168519]

**Mr. Byrne:** This information is not available and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals by nationality are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

## Crime

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* level and *(b)* rate per 1,000 population in (i) England and (ii) each London borough was of (A) crime, (B) homicide, (C) violence against the person, (D) rape, (E) personal robbery, (F) robberies from businesses, (G) residential burglary, (H) non-residential burglary, (I) gun-related crime, (J) motor vehicle crime, (K) domestic crime and (L) racial crime in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166947]

**Mr. Coaker:** Data for gun-related crime refer to the offences involving firearms (excluding air weapons) that have been recorded by the police. Data for 2005-06 is the most recently available and is given in Table A.

From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic crime. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected. Data for the remaining crime types requested are given for 2006-07 in Table B.

*Table 1: Firearm offences (excluding air weapon offences) recorded[1] and the rate per 1,000 population—2005-06*

| | *Offences recorded* | *Rate per 1,000 population* |
|---|---|---|
| Total London[2] | 3,884 | 0.52 |
| Total England | 10,851 | 0.22 |

[1] Includes all offences involving firearms (excluding air weapons), where a weapon has been fired, used as a blunt instrument or used in a threat.
[2] Includes the City of London police and the Metropolitan Police Service.

*Table 2: Offences recorded and the rate per 1,000 population for specified offence groups and areas*

| | *Total recorded crime* | | *Homicide*[1] | | *Violence against the person* | | *Rape* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Offences recorded* | *Rate per 1,000 population* | *Offences recorded* | *Rate per 1,000 population* | *Offences recorded* | *Rate per 1,000 population* | *Offences recorded* | *Rate per 1,000 population* |
| Barking and Dagenham | 21,384 | 129.98 | 9 | 0.05 | 5,150 | 31.30 | 68 | 0.41 |
| Barnet | 29,920 | 90.75 | 5 | 0.02 | 5,512 | 16.72 | 67 | 0.20 |

*Table 2: Offences recorded and the rate per 1,000 population for specified offence groups and areas*

| | Total recorded crime | | Homicide[1] | | Violence against the person | | Rape | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population |
| Bexley | 16,997 | 77.15 | [5]— | [5]— | 3,742 | 16.99 | 35 | 0.16 |
| Brent | 30,474 | 112.83 | 4 | 0.01 | 6,216 | 23.02 | 93 | 0.34 |
| Bromley | 28,424 | 94.14 | 4 | 0.01 | 5,697 | 18.87 | 46 | 0.15 |
| Camden | 42,435 | 187.68 | 7 | 0.03 | 6,586 | 29.13 | 70 | 0.31 |
| City of Westminster | 66,267 | 271.18 | 4 | 0.02 | 8,413 | 34.43 | 131 | 0.54 |
| Croydon | 31,510 | 91.95 | 3 | 0.01 | 6,741 | 19.67 | 97 | 0.28 |
| Ealing | 36,734 | 121.72 | 9 | 0.03 | 7,641 | 25.32 | 56 | 0.19 |
| Enfield | 27,058 | 96.45 | [5]— | [5]— | 5,342 | 19.04 | 66 | 0.24 |
| Greenwich | 29,829 | 130.75 | 3 | 0.01 | 7,486 | 32.81 | 107 | 0.47 |
| Hackney | 31,160 | 149.99 | 11 | 0.05 | 7,148 | 34.41 | 109 | 0.52 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 25,334 | 140.86 | 4 | 0.02 | 5,054 | 28.10 | 62 | 0.34 |
| Haringey | 30,595 | 136.29 | 5 | 0.02 | 5,651 | 25.17 | 76 | 0.34 |
| Harrow | 15,837 | 74.02 | [5]— | [5]— | 2,870 | 13.41 | 45 | 0.21 |
| Havering | 19,997 | 88.40 | 5 | 0.02 | 3,639 | 16.09 | 38 | 0.17 |
| Hillingdon | 28,144 | 111.50 | 7 | 0.03 | 5,911 | 23.42 | 35 | 0.14 |
| Hounslow | 24,485 | 115.22 | 4 | 0.02 | 5,502 | 25.89 | 78 | 0.37 |
| Islington | 35,248 | 192.99 | 6 | 0.03 | 6,289 | 34.43 | 89 | 0.49 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 24,328 | 123.98 | [5]— | [5]— | 3,597 | 18.33 | 49 | 0.25 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 13,105 | 85.64 | [5]— | [5]— | 3,003 | 19.62 | 28 | 0.18 |
| Lambeth | 38,868 | 144.42 | 15 | 0.06 | 8,344 | 31.00 | 127 | 0.47 |
| Lewisham | 32,150 | 129.92 | 4 | 0.02 | 8,062 | 32.58 | 106 | 0.43 |
| Merton | 16,078 | 82.56 | 5 | 0.03 | 3,361 | 17.26 | 42 | 0.22 |
| Newham | 35,597 | 144.57 | 14 | 0.06 | 7,578 | 30.78 | 96 | 0.39 |
| Redbridge | 24,646 | 98.00 | [5]— | [5]— | 4,323 | 17.19 | 52 | 0.21 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 13,408 | 71.98 | [5]— | [5]— | 2,122 | 11.39 | 24 | 0.13 |
| Southwark | 39,713 | 154.12 | 10 | 0.04 | 8,435 | 32.74 | 118 | 0.46 |
| Sutton | 15,408 | 86.71 | [5]— | [5]— | 2,989 | 16.82 | 33 | 0.19 |
| Tower Hamlets | 32,627 | 153.05 | 3 | 0.01 | 7,727 | 36.25 | 103 | 0.48 |
| Waltham Forest | 28,927 | 129.10 | 4 | 0.02 | 6,052 | 27.01 | 74 | 0.33 |
| Wandsworth | 30,039 | 106.75 | 9 | 0.03 | 5,647 | 20.07 | 81 | 0.29 |
| Total | 916,726 | 122.09 | [5]— | [5]— | 181,830 | 24.22 | 2,301 | 0.31 |
| Total London[4] | 929,752 | 123.67 | [5]— | [5]— | 183,321 | 24.39 | 2,312 | 0.31 |
| Total England | 5,093,395 | 101.00 | 719 | 0.01 | 976,638 | 19.37 | 13,135 | 0.26 |

| | Robbery of personal property | | Robbery of business property | | Burglary in a dwelling | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population |
| Barking and Dagenham | 704 | 4.28 | 101 | 0.61 | 1,196 | 7.27 |
| Barnet | 935 | 2.84 | 128 | 0.39 | 2,467 | 7.48 |
| Bexley | 388 | 1.76 | 60 | 0.27 | 1,105 | 5.02 |
| Brent | 2,036 | 7.54 | 108 | 0.40 | 2,289 | 8.48 |
| Bromley | 990 | 3.28 | 125 | 0.41 | 1,996 | 6.61 |
| Camden | 1,516 | 6.70 | 81 | 0.36 | 2,515 | 11.12 |
| City of Westminster | 1,697 | 6.94 | 59 | 0.24 | 1,448 | 5.93 |
| Croydon | 1,653 | 4.82 | 176 | 0.51 | 2,099 | 6.12 |
| Ealing | 2,280 | 7.56 | 79 | 0.26 | 2,693 | 8.92 |
| Enfield | 1,385 | 4.94 | 122 | 0.43 | 2,390 | 8.52 |
| Greenwich | 1,382 | 6.06 | 97 | 0.43 | 1,929 | 8.46 |
| Hackney | 1,570 | 7.56 | 115 | 0.55 | 1,841 | 8.86 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 1,108 | 6.16 | 64 | 0.36 | 2,118 | 11.78 |
| Haringey | 1,804 | 8.04 | 142 | 0.63 | 2,709 | 12.07 |
| Harrow | 728 | 3.40 | 41 | 0.19 | 1,334 | 6.23 |
| Havering | 469 | 2.07 | 80 | 0.35 | 1,175 | 5.19 |

| | Robbery of personal property | | Robbery of business property | | Burglary in a dwelling | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population |
| Hillingdon | 874 | 3.46 | 100 | 0.40 | 1,874 | 7.42 |
| Hounslow | 822 | 3.87 | 47 | 0.22 | 1,671 | 7.86 |
| Islington | 1,381 | 7.56 | 107 | 0.59 | 2,450 | 13.41 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 764 | 3.89 | 23 | 0.12 | 1,385 | 7.06 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 281 | 1.84 | 21 | 0.14 | 515 | 3.37 |
| Lambeth | 2,674 | 9.94 | 237 | 0.88 | 2,774 | 10.31 |
| Lewisham | 2,477 | 10.01 | 158 | 0.64 | 2,492 | 10.07 |
| Merton | 549 | 2.82 | 49 | 0.25 | 997 | 5.12 |
| Newham | 2,273 | 9.23 | 247 | 1.00 | 2,155 | 8.75 |
| Redbridge | 1,206 | 4.80 | 147 | 0.58 | 2,107 | 8.38 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 387 | 2.08 | 21 | 0.11 | 1,053 | 5.65 |
| Southwark | 2,477 | 9.61 | 218 | 0.85 | 2,373 | 9.21 |
| Sutton | 374 | 2.10 | 39 | 0.22 | 657 | 3.70 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1,829 | 8.58 | 79 | 0.37 | 1,638 | 7.68 |
| Waltham Forest | 1,802 | 8.04 | 152 | 0.68 | 1,854 | 8.27 |
| Wandsworth | 1,636 | 5.81 | 88 | 0.31 | 2,634 | 9.36 |
| Total | 42,451 | 5.65 | 3,311 | 0.44 | 59,933 | 7.98 |
| Total London[4] | 42,497 | 5.65 | 3,315 | 0.44 | 59,970 | 7.98 |
| Total England | 88,681 | 1.76 | 9,382 | 0.19 | 281,704 | 5.59 |

| | Burglary in a building other than a dwelling | | Offences against vehicles[2] | | All racially/religiously aggravated crime[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population |
| Barking and Dagenham | 921 | 5.60 | 3,091 | 18.79 | 368 | 2.24 |
| Barnet | 1,437 | 4.36 | 5,468 | 16.59 | 287 | 0.87 |
| Bexley | 971 | 4.41 | 2,196 | 9.97 | 283 | 1.28 |
| Brent | 1,041 | 3.85 | 4,642 | 17.19 | 185 | 0.68 |
| Bromley | 1,592 | 5.27 | 4,433 | 14.68 | 241 | 0.80 |
| Camden | 1,807 | 7.99 | 5,553 | 24.56 | 391 | 1.73 |
| City of Westminster | 2,353 | 9.63 | 4,336 | 17.74 | 439 | 1.80 |
| Croydon | 1,365 | 3.98 | 4,366 | 12.74 | 191 | 0.56 |
| Ealing | 1,264 | 4.19 | 6,820 | 22.60 | 292 | 0.97 |
| Enfield | 1,248 | 4.45 | 4,357 | 15.53 | 200 | 0.71 |
| Greenwich | 1,312 | 5.75 | 3,786 | 16.59 | 435 | 1.91 |
| Hackney | 846 | 4.07 | 4,373 | 21.05 | 238 | 1.15 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 614 | 3.41 | 4,192 | 23.31 | 200 | 1.11 |
| Haringey | 850 | 3.79 | 4,499 | 20.04 | 158 | 0.70 |
| Harrow | 625 | 2.92 | 2,707 | 12.65 | 154 | 0.72 |
| Havering | 1,336 | 5.91 | 3,799 | 16.79 | 160 | 0.71 |
| Hillingdon | 1,308 | 5.18 | 5,416 | 21.46 | 362 | 1.43 |
| Hounslow | 923 | 4.34 | 4,197 | 19.75 | 289 | 1.36 |
| Islington | 1,278 | 7.00 | 4,886 | 26.75 | 305 | 1.67 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 797 | 4.06 | 3,171 | 16.16 | 189 | 0.96 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 523 | 3.42 | 1,231 | 8.04 | 149 | 0.97 |
| Lambeth | 911 | 3.39 | 4,310 | 16.01 | 264 | 0.98 |
| Lewisham | 1,087 | 4.39 | 3,962 | 16.01 | 384 | 1.55 |
| Merton | 831 | 4.27 | 2,156 | 11.07 | 139 | 0.71 |
| Newham | 1,216 | 4.94 | 6,561 | 26.65 | 246 | 1.00 |
| Redbridge | 946 | 3.76 | 4,789 | 19.04 | 175 | 0.70 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 1,032 | 5.54 | 2,193 | 11.77 | 77 | 0.41 |
| Southwark | 1,714 | 6.65 | 5,050 | 19.60 | 287 | 1.11 |
| Sutton | 794 | 4.47 | 2,405 | 13.53 | 155 | 0.87 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1,252 | 5.87 | 4,334 | 20.33 | 537 | 2.52 |
| Waltham Forest | 1,262 | 5.63 | 5,290 | 23.61 | 218 | 0.97 |
| Wandsworth | 1,309 | 4.65 | 4,361 | 15.50 | 189 | 0.67 |
| Total | 36,765 | 4.90 | 132,930 | 17.70 | 8,187 | 1.09 |

| | Burglary in a building other than a dwelling | | Offences against vehicles[2] | | All racially/religiously aggravated crime[3] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population | Offences recorded | Rate per 1,000 population |
| Total London[4] | 37,160 | 4.94 | 133,419 | 17.75 | 8,290 | 1.10 |
| Total England | 312,625 | 6.20 | 719,031 | 14.26 | 37,157 | 0.74 |

[1] includes offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
[2] includes offences of aggravated vehicle taking, theft of or from vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.
[3] includes racially/religiously aggravated offences of less serious wounding, harassment, assault without injury, criminal damage to a dwelling, criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling, criminal damage to a vehicle and other criminal damage.
[4] includes the City of London police and the Metropolitan Police Service.
[5] in accordance with guidance from the Office for National Statistics, values less than 3 have been suppressed in order to protect confidentiality. Therefore total values cannot be calculated.

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded crimes there were per police officer in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166948]

**Mr. Coaker:** The available information is given in the tables. Information for London boroughs is not available centrally prior to 2002-03.

*Table 1: Recorded offences per police officer (FTE) 1997*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Total London[1, 2] | 29 |
| Total England[2] | 37 |

[1]. includes the City of London police and the Metropolitan Police service (also includes those officers who work in central services and Heathrow).
[2]. Total police officer strength figures are based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. These figures exclude those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

*Table 2: Recorded offences per police officer (FTE) 1998-99 to 2001-02[1,2]*

| | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total London[3, 4] | 35 | 39 | 39 | 40 |
| Total England[4] | 41 | 44 | 42 | 44 |

[1]. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998/99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
[2]. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.
[3]. Includes the City of London police and the Metropolitan Police Service (also includes those officers who work in Central Services and Heathrow Airport).
[4]. Total police officer strength figures are based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. These figures exclude those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

*Table 3 Recorded offences per police officer (FTE) 2002-03 to 2006-07[1]*

| London borough[2] | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 57 | 58 | 51 | 52 | 50 |
| Barnet | 66 | 67 | 68 | 63 | 54 |
| Bexley | 63 | 60 | 49 | 55 | 46 |
| Brent | 54 | 52 | 52 | 53 | 45 |
| Bromley | 73 | 67 | 63 | 64 | 58 |
| Camden | 75 | 64 | 53 | 49 | 52 |
| City of Westminster | 55 | 48 | 49 | 46 | 42 |
| Croydon | 62 | 56 | 51 | 50 | 46 |
| Ealing | 62 | 54 | 53 | 55 | 54 |
| Enfield | 61 | 56 | 49 | 49 | 46 |
| Greenwich | 52 | 54 | 52 | 51 | 47 |
| Hackney | 58 | 51 | 46 | 45 | 42 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 59 | 55 | 52 | 47 | 45 |
| Haringey | 62 | 54 | 52 | 49 | 44 |
| Harrow | 65 | 55 | 53 | 50 | 45 |
| Havering | 63 | 65 | 56 | 57 | 52 |
| Hillingdon | 64 | 61 | 56 | 56 | 57 |
| Hounslow | 70 | 64 | 55 | 54 | 47 |
| Islington | 63 | 60 | 56 | 54 | 52 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 60 | 52 | 48 | 43 | 43 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 53 | 59 | 53 | 49 | 45 |
| Lambeth | 56 | 53 | 47 | 42 | 41 |
| Lewisham | 50 | 50 | 54 | 51 | 52 |
| Merton | 59 | 55 | 49 | 49 | 43 |
| Newham | 59 | 52 | 47 | 50 | 47 |
| Redbridge | 73 | 65 | 57 | 52 | 53 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 59 | 54 | 53 | 51 | 44 |
| Southwark | 55 | 53 | 49 | 47 | 47 |
| Sutton | 56 | 58 | 58 | 52 | 50 |
| Tower Hamlets | 60 | 52 | 48 | 44 | 43 |
| Waltham Forest | 66 | 58 | 54 | 54 | 53 |
| Wandsworth | 65 | 55 | 54 | 50 | 50 |
| Total[3] | 61 | 56 | 52 | 50 | 48 |
| Total London[4, 5] | 38 | 35 | 32 | 32 | 29 |
| Total England[5] | 45 | 44 | 40 | 40 | 38 |

1. The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. Police officer strength figures are only available by borough from 2002-03. These figures are based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number and include those officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.
3. Total figures for all London boroughs exclude the crimes recorded and the police officers who work at Heathrow Airport. Officers who work in Central Services (headquarters) have also been excluded from the figures.
4. Includes the City of London police and the Metropolitan Police Service (also includes those officers who work in central Services and Heathrow Airport).
5. The total police officer strength figures for London and England exclude those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded instances of *(a)* rape and *(b)* domestic violence there were in each year since 1997 in England and Wales, broken down by police force area; and what the clear-up rates of such crimes were in each year in each area. [166976]

**Mr. Coaker:** From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

Data for the number of recorded instances of rape and the clear-up/detection rate for these crimes is available for the 1997 calendar year and from 1998-99 in financial years. This followed a revision to the counting rules for recorded crime and the expanded coverage which came into effect on 1 April 1998. The figures were also affected by the revised detections guidance issued in April 1999 which formalised detection procedures, placing a greater emphasis on the evidential basis on which detections can be claimed.

The figures were also affected by the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002, which required the police to record a crime unless there was "no credible evidence to the contrary". The Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004 also altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences, including rape. All of these changes mean that detection rates are not comparable over these time periods.

The Home Office carried out research published in July 2007 which found that the reduction in detection rates was likely to be largely due to changes in recording practices resulting from the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard, counting rules and detections guidance ('Investigating and detecting recorded offences of rape', Home Office Online Report 18/07).

New performance management arrangements have been introduced for the police and CPS on the investigation and prosecution of rape. The Home Office and Association of Chief Police Officers are also providing operational support to police forces on the implementation of recommendations from 'Without Consent', the rape inspection published in January 2007.

*Offences recorded by the police and detection rates[1] for rape offences by police force area*

| | 1997 | | 1998-99[2] | | 1999-2000[3] | | 2000-01 | | 2001-02 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Offences recorded* | *Detection rate* | *Offences recorded* | *Detection rate* | *Offences recorded* | *Detection rate* | *Offences recorded* | *Detection rate* | *Offences recorded* | *Detection rate* |
| Avon and Somerset | 219 | 86 | 175 | 74 | 181 | 62 | 199 | 43 | 323 | 27 |
| Bedfordshire | 81 | 70 | 66 | 56 | 96 | 43 | 85 | 34 | 92 | 25 |
| Cambridgeshire | 73 | 79 | 84 | 62 | 105 | 56 | 106 | 50 | 156 | 46 |
| Cheshire | 101 | 100 | 108 | 98 | 62 | 87 | 80 | 86 | 74 | 81 |
| Cleveland | 37 | 89 | 56 | 91 | 51 | 73 | 37 | 59 | 54 | 65 |
| Cumbria | 33 | 97 | 43 | 93 | 34 | 91 | 37 | 70 | 47 | 74 |
| Derbyshire | 75 | 93 | 108 | 73 | 109 | 52 | 107 | 38 | 120 | 39 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 164 | 92 | 178 | 89 | 165 | 96 | 184 | 77 | 181 | 49 |
| Dorset | 68 | 94 | 55 | 78 | 66 | 50 | 80 | 36 | 122 | 39 |
| Durham | 71 | 93 | 60 | 95 | 66 | 85 | 46 | 91 | 78 | n/a |
| Dyfed-Powys | 58 | 95 | 43 | 91 | 55 | 89 | 47 | 109 | 49 | 76 |
| Essex | 130 | 79 | 187 | 65 | 196 | 64 | 166 | 50 | 202 | 33 |
| Gloucestershire | 36 | 89 | 54 | 69 | 70 | 66 | 90 | 70 | 53 | 57 |
| Greater Manchester | 432 | 85 | 537 | 74 | 548 | 64 | 544 | 58 | 574 | 55 |
| Gwent | 98 | 100 | 91 | 91 | 106 | 92 | 87 | 98 | 106 | 93 |
| Hampshire | 199 | 79 | 180 | 99 | 249 | 65 | 274 | 58 | 303 | 53 |
| Hertfordshire | 68 | 88 | 51 | 96 | 68 | 78 | 86 | 66 | 87 | 62 |
| Humberside | 156 | 65 | 127 | 58 | 170 | 33 | 142 | 37 | 166 | 33 |
| Kent | 152 | 92 | 169 | 85 | 145 | 90 | 187 | 57 | 186 | 56 |
| Lancashire | 158 | 91 | 154 | 83 | 148 | 79 | 200 | 53 | 194 | 47 |
| Leicestershire | 97 | 72 | 152 | 43 | 150 | 37 | 147 | 37 | 159 | n/a |
| Lincolnshire | 54 | 124 | 65 | 82 | 63 | 87 | 75 | 67 | 111 | 50 |
| London, City of | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | [4] | 0 | [4] | 50 | 9 | 22 |
| Merseyside | 175 | 90 | 190 | 78 | 237 | 69 | 241 | 66 | 283 | 53 |
| Metropolitan Police | 1,741 | 58 | 1,993 | 32 | 2,270 | 28 | 2,189 | 24 | 2,492 | 27 |
| Norfolk | 73 | 68 | 99 | 94 | 89 | 37 | 114 | 35 | 120 | 36 |
| Northamptonshire | 56 | 96 | 60 | 82 | 44 | 95 | 60 | 70 | 97 | 64 |
| Northumbria | 125 | 85 | 275 | 68 | 249 | 61 | 227 | 50 | 290 | 43 |
| North Wales | 95 | 89 | 73 | 92 | 96 | 85 | 101 | 59 | 128 | 35 |
| North Yorkshire | 38 | 87 | 42 | 105 | 42 | 62 | 49 | 73 | 71 | 59 |
| Nottinghamshire | 154 | 83 | 163 | 55 | 237 | 46 | 247 | 51 | 251 | 36 |
| South Wales | 123 | 99 | 169 | 93 | 130 | 88 | 125 | 91 | 126 | 90 |
| South Yorkshire | 113 | 96 | 108 | 79 | 126 | 88 | 127 | 75 | 121 | 72 |
| Staffordshire | 104 | 86 | 114 | 68 | 184 | 39 | 197 | 38 | 210 | 35 |
| Suffolk | 82 | 74 | 89 | 73 | 84 | 29 | 100 | 36 | 116 | 30 |
| Surrey | 59 | 56 | 69 | 48 | 83 | 45 | 126 | 28 | 118 | 42 |
| Sussex | 124 | 80 | 197 | 55 | 215 | 47 | 261 | 34 | 235 | 35 |
| Thames Valley | 165 | 90 | 195 | 59 | 233 | 52 | 271 | 26 | 291 | 32 |
| Warwickshire | 29 | 79 | 29 | 79 | 20 | 55 | 25 | 52 | 30 | 30 |
| West Mercia | 116 | 91 | 103 | 87 | 92 | 64 | 106 | 56 | 173 | 44 |

*Offences recorded by the police and detection rates[1] for rape offences by police force area*

| Police force area | 1997 | | 1998-99[2] | | 1999-2000[3] | | 2000-01 | | 2001-02 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Offences recorded | Detection rate | Offences recorded | Detection rate | Offences recorded | Detection rate | Offences recorded | Detection rate | Offences recorded | Detection rate |
| West Midlands | 264 | 77 | 396 | 68 | 513 | 59 | 565 | 53 | 608 | 45 |
| West Yorkshire | 361 | 90 | 437 | 83 | 480 | 76 | 376 | 71 | 439 | 55 |
| Wiltshire | 71 | 96 | 88 | 73 | 81 | 68 | 78 | 31 | 89 | 46 |

| Police force area | 2002-03[4] | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05[5] | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Offences recorded | Detection rate | Offences recorded | Detection rate | Offences recorded | Detection rate | Offences recorded | Detection rate | Offences recorded | Detection rate |
| Avon and Somerset | 429 | 22 | 482 | 21 | 471 | 18 | 310 | 22 | 430 | 20 |
| Bedfordshire | 121 | 29 | 147 | 21 | 163 | 23 | 195 | 23 | 149 | 15 |
| Cambridgeshire | 200 | 29 | 232 | 15 | 236 | 21 | 200 | 22 | 209 | 15 |
| Cheshire | 110 | 48 | 184 | 29 | 197 | 28 | 181 | 28 | 170 | 30 |
| Cleveland | 110 | 41 | 145 | 31 | 143 | 22 | 171 | 38 | 140 | 34 |
| Cumbria | 66 | 64 | 74 | 30 | 79 | 30 | 77 | 35 | 73 | 47 |
| Derbyshire | 198 | 35 | 233 | 33 | 273 | 31 | 282 | 30 | 284 | 21 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 275 | 30 | 329 | 19 | 388 | 26 | 400 | 18 | 395 | 19 |
| Dorset | 132 | 25 | 144 | 17 | 163 | 17 | 181 | 17 | 132 | 27 |
| Durham | 62 | 68 | 72 | 71 | 91 | 60 | 158 | 26 | 83 | 43 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 46 | 91 | 101 | 25 | 101 | 35 | 85 | 18 | 102 | 28 |
| Essex | 294 | 32 | 335 | 29 | 334 | 27 | 384 | 25 | 355 | 25 |
| Gloucestershire | 122 | 31 | 107 | 28 | 115 | 29 | 161 | 19 | 160 | 21 |
| Greater Manchester | 719 | 46 | 846 | 32 | 899 | 30 | 842 | 31 | 837 | 31 |
| Gwent | 148 | 80 | 82 | 78 | 112 | 52 | 126 | 40 | 145 | 36 |
| Hampshire | 358 | 41 | 462 | 34 | 616 | 26 | 656 | 21 | 662 | 19 |
| Hertfordshire | 169 | 50 | 161 | 50 | 184 | 38 | 211 | 41 | 199 | 28 |
| Humberside | 258 | 23 | 350 | 20 | 329 | 22 | 350 | 23 | 291 | 24 |
| Kent | 216 | 38 | 286 | 27 | 358 | 22 | 445 | 22 | 395 | 23 |
| Lancashire | 245 | 52 | 270 | 35 | 285 | 37 | 326 | 35 | 288 | 37 |
| Leicestershire | 257 | 26 | 250 | 28 | 308 | 23 | 307 | 19 | 298 | 20 |
| Lincolnshire | 137 | 40 | 163 | 28 | 178 | 31 | 187 | 24 | 155 | 24 |
| London, City of | 3 | 100 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Merseyside | 340 | 47 | 383 | 43 | 374 | 35 | 378 | 24 | 298 | 28 |
| Metropolitan Police | 2,728 | 29 | 2,571 | 33 | 2,446 | 25 | 2,398 | 36 | 2,304 | 34 |
| Norfolk | 185 | 24 | 204 | 18 | 190 | 21 | 230 | 23 | 165 | 24 |
| Northamptonshire | 176 | 53 | 163 | 37 | 127 | 32 | 159 | 33 | 162 | 25 |
| Northumbria | 341 | 36 | 338 | 30 | 344 | 25 | 359 | 29 | 345 | 33 |
| North Wales | 114 | 26 | 140 | 29 | 159 | 27 | 170 | 25 | 106 | 16 |
| North Yorkshire | 131 | 43 | 120 | 41 | 137 | 41 | 145 | 34 | 135 | 41 |
| Nottinghamshire | 239 | 34 | 303 | 27 | 254 | 36 | 265 | 27 | 255 | 31 |
| South Wales | 189 | 62 | 191 | 53 | 185 | 60 | 216 | 29 | 273 | 28 |
| South Yorkshire | 190 | 40 | 182 | 38 | 287 | 30 | 338 | 24 | 267 | 27 |
| Staffordshire | 251 | 40 | 248 | 32 | 306 | 30 | 292 | 26 | 285 | 24 |
| Suffolk | 148 | 30 | 172 | 26 | 180 | 21 | 207 | 25 | 175 | 20 |
| Surrey | 129 | 32 | 144 | 35 | 129 | 26 | 139 | 32 | 138 | 29 |
| Sussex | 348 | 26 | 305 | 24 | 458 | 15 | 424 | 21 | 440 | 15 |
| Thames Valley | 365 | 27 | 436 | 18 | 401 | 24 | 448 | 22 | 437 | 19 |
| Warwickshire | 62 | 27 | 80 | 19 | 85 | 25 | 86 | 19 | 110 | 17 |
| West Mercia | 219 | 37 | 226 | 35 | 214 | 31 | 233 | 27 | 220 | 20 |
| West Midlands | 746 | 41 | 816 | 32 | 973 | 25 | 943 | 29 | 912 | 23 |
| West Yorkshire | 553 | 42 | 626 | 31 | 580 | 25 | 604 | 25 | 617 | 19 |
| Wiltshire | 155 | 37 | 139 | 41 | 111 | 32 | 148 | 33 | 157 | 18 |

n/a = not available

[1] Offences detected in current year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year, so some percentages may exceed 100.

[2] Expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules came into effect on 1 April 1998.

[3] Revised detections guidance was implemented on 1 April 1999.

[4] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

[5] The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

[6] In accordance with guidance from the Office for National Statistics, values less than 3 have been suppressed in order to protect confidentiality.

### Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of face the people sessions conducted by crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs); and what guidance her Department issues to CDRPs on the conduct of such sessions. [167536]

**Mr. Coaker:** The new statutory requirements for crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs), contained in the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007, state that each CDRP must hold one or more public meeting a year which can be described as 'face the people' sessions. These regulations came into force in England on 1 August and in Wales on 19 November.

The Home Office does not intend to assess the effectiveness of CDRP public meetings or 'face the people' sessions specifically. As part of the ongoing performance support provided to CDRPs, the Home Office will continue to review the effectiveness of all CDRPs as they deliver the new statutory requirements.

Guidance to support partnerships to hold effective public meetings is contained within the recently published "Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working". This gives advice and examples of best practice to help partnerships on all aspects of the new requirements including a section on holding public meetings. The guidance document is available on the Crime Reduction website at:

http://crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/guidance_for_effective_partnerships.pdf.

### Cumbria

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166564]

**Mr. Byrne:** My Department has no plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in her departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166652]

**Mr. Byrne:** I refer the hon. Member to the data published in the report deposited in the House of Commons Library on 8 November 2007 that gives the proportion of UK produce supplied to Government Departments, NHS and HM Prison Service. The House was told of the report in a written ministerial statement by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw). A copy of the report is also available on the PSFPI website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/govt-food-usage.pdf.

### Departmental Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167931]

**Mr. Byrne:** No officials in either *(a)* the Home Office or *(b)* any of its Agencies (Borders and Immigration Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau) are provided with private health insurance as part of their employment package.

### Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in her Department earned over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167194]

**Mr. Byrne:** The following table shows the number of people, including public appointments, in the Home Office whose gross salary exceeded £100,000.00 for the financial years from 2000-01 to 2006-07. The Home Office changed its payroll system in July 2001 and electronic records are not available for previous financial years. Individuals who have left the Department are also listed separately for clarity as a single post may have been occupied by more than one individual during a financial year.

*Number of people whose gross salary exceeded £100,000.00*

| | *Total* | *Number of total who left the Department during the year* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 11 | 2 |
| 2001-02 | 20 | 8 |
| 2002-03 | 24 | 3 |
| 2003-04 | 26 | 3 |
| 2004-05 | 38 | 10 |
| 2005-06 | 47 | 6 |
| 2006-07 | 56 | 12 |

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish her Department's autumn performance report. [164881]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Home Office has not yet set a date for publication of its autumn performance report for 2007, however it is our intention to publish this before the house rises for the Christmas recess.

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from her Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167243]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested is not collated or held centrally by the Home Office. A limited amount of data on secondments to the voluntary sector is held by the Home Office Interchange Team. Data is held for current year activity only. So far for the year 2007-08 there have been 22 secondments to the voluntary sector at a total cost of approximately £500,000.

## Deportation

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had their removal delayed by application for judicial review in each of the last three years; and what proportion of cases before the Appeal Court they comprised. [168342]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The numbers of people who have had their removal delayed by an application for judicial review in the last three years are:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| November 2004-October 2005 | 1,539 |
| November 2005-October 2006 | 1,658 |
| November 2006-October 2007 | 2,667 |

These figures have been obtained from internal management information and may be subject to change.

The Border and Immigration Agency does not have the information to answer 'what proportion of cases before the Appeal Court they comprised.'

## Domestic Violence: Death

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women in each police force area were killed by a current or former male partner in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [167289]

**Mr. Coaker:** Latest available information on homicides recorded by police in England and Wales is published in 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2005-06' (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/07), table 1.05 of which provides data on relationship of victims to principal suspects. The requested breakdown has been extracted from the Homicide Index and is shown in the table. Data for 2006-07 are expected to be published in late January 2008.

*Homicides currently[1] recorded where female victim is partner or ex-partner of male principal suspect by police force area: England and Wales, 1996 to 2005-06[2, 3]*

*Recorded crime*

| *Police force area* | *1996* | *1997* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *North East region* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 1 |
| Durham | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | — | — | 2 | 4 |
| Northumbria | — | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | — | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | — |
| *North West region* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cheshire | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | 2 | 1 |
| Cumbria | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 4 | — |
| Greater Manchester | 6 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Lancashire | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| Merseyside | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | — | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber region* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Humberside | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | — | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| North Yorkshire | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| South Yorkshire | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | — | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| West Yorkshire | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| *East Midlands region* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Derbyshire | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | 3 | — |
| Leicestershire | 2 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Lincolnshire | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 3 |
| Northamptonshire | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 3 |
| Nottinghamshire | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| *West Midlands region* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staffordshire | 3 | 4 | 4 | — | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | — | 4 |
| Warwickshire | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| West Mercia | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| West Midlands | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 7 |

*Homicides currently[1] recorded where female victim is partner or ex-partner of male principal suspect by police force area: England and Wales, 1996 to 2005-06[2, 3]*

Recorded crime

| Police force area | 1996 | 1997 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *East of England region* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bedfordshire | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 4 | — | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Cambridgeshire | 2 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | — |
| Essex | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | — | 1 | 3 |
| Hertfordshire | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 3 | 2 | — | 1 | 2 |
| Norfolk | 2 | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | — | — | 1 |
| Suffolk | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| *London region* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| City of London | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Metropolitan Police | 8 | 12 | 16 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 13 | 19 | 15 | 13 |
| *South East region* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hampshire | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Kent | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Surrey | 1 | — | — | — | — | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Sussex | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Thames Valley | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| *South West region* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Avon and Somerset | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | — | 3 | — | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Devon and Cornwall | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Dorset | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | — |
| Gloucestershire | 1 | — | — | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Wiltshire | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| *Wales* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dyfed Powys | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | — |
| Gwent | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| North Wales | — | 5 | 3 | — | 2 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 2 |
| South Wales | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| British Transport Police | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| England and Wales | 94 | 98 | 99 | 76 | 88 | 100 | 117 | 105 | 94 | 105 | 83 |

[1] As at 9 October 2006; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[3] Data for 2006-07 are not yet available.

### Drugs: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug dealers who were not UK citizens resident in the Peterborough city council area were deported in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [168769]

**Mr. Byrne:** The information requested could be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost. The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 20 November providing the most accurate and robust information on foreign national prisoners. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

### EC Integration

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Foreign Secretary on the British Council's Migration Integration Policy Index 2007 report. [168788]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* There have been no discussions between the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Foreign Secretary about the Migration Integration Policy Index 2007 report.

### Extradition

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many extradition requests were received by the UK from *(a)* the USA, *(b)* each of the other EU member states and *(c)* other countries, in each of the last five years; and how many of those were (i) granted and (ii) refused. [165422]

**Meg Hillier:** For the purposes of this reply, the answer gives details of requests made to England and

Wales; requests from Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Since 1 January 2004, extradition between the UK and European Union has been conducted under the Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), which was given effect in the UK by part 1 of the Extradition Act 2003. The other EU member states have been designated under part 1 of the Extradition Act 2003 at regular intervals. A separate table sets out the statistics for the EAW.

It should be emphasised that a person is not always returned in the same year that an extradition request has been received.

*Table 1: Extradition requests made to England and Wales, 2003-07[1]*

| | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Country* | *Received* | *Returned (Refused)* | *Received* | *Returned (Refused)* | *Received* | *Returned (Refused)* | *Received* | *Returned (Refused)* | *Received* | *Returned (Refused)* |
| Albania | — | — | 7 | — | 2 | 1 (2) | 8 | 3 | 12 | 3 (3) |
| Argentina | 2 | (1) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Armenia | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | (1) | — | — |
| Australia | 5 | — | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 (2) | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 (2) |
| Austria | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Azerbaijan | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Belgium | 11 | 3 | 1 | 3 (1) | — | — | — | (3) | — | — |
| Brazil | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | — |
| Bulgaria | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Canada | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Croatia | — | — | 2 | — | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 (2) | — | — |
| Cyprus | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Czech Republic | 14 | 3 (6) | 10 | 1 (2) | 1 | 4 (3) | | 2 (2) | — | — |
| Denmark | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Estonia | — | — | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| France | 11 | 7 (1) | 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | — | 3 (1) | — | — |
| Germany | 15 | 8 (3) | 15 | 7 | 1 | 7 (2) | — | 2 (1) | — | — |
| Georgia | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Greece | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Grenada | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Hong Kong SAR | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — |
| Hungary | 2 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| India | 1 | (1) | — | — | 4 | — | 2 | (1) | — | (1) |
| Israel | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| Italy | 10 | 3 (1) | 12 | 8 (3) | 3 | 5 (4) | — | 4 (2) | — | 4 |
| Kenya | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Latvia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Lithuania | 11 | 1 (1) | 12 | 4 (2) | — | 3 | — | — | — | (2) |
| Mauritius | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Moldova | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Monaco | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Morocco | | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Netherlands | 11 | 12 (6) | 2 | 5 (1) | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Netherlands Antilles | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| New Zealand | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | — |
| Norway | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 (1) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Peru | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Poland | 2 | 1 | 4 | (1) | — | 1 | — | (1) | — | — |
| Portugal | 6 | (1) | — | 1 (1) | — | 1 | — | (1) | — | (1) |
| Romania | 1 | — | 3 | (1) | 14 | 2 (1) | 3 | 1 (5) | — | 1 (1) |
| Russian Federation | 1 | (3) | 5 | (1) | 5 | (6) | 11 | (2) | 7 | (2) |
| Rwanda | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 | — |
| Slovenia | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Slovakia | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| South Africa | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 (1) | — | — | 1 | — |
| Spain | 5 | 1 | — | 2 (1) | — | 3 (2) | — | 1 | — | 1 (2) |
| Sweden | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Switzerland | 1 | 2 (1) | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | (1) |
| Trinidad and Tobago | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Turkey | 2 | (1) | 2 | — | 1 | 1 (2) | 3 | (6) | 4 | — |

*Table 1: Extradition requests made to England and Wales, 2003-07[1]*

| Country | 2003 Received | 2003 Returned (Refused) | 2004 Received | 2004 Returned (Refused) | 2005 Received | 2005 Returned (Refused) | 2006 Received | 2006 Returned (Refused) | 2007 Received | 2007 Returned (Refused) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Uganda | 1 | (1) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ukraine | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| United States of America | 20 | 7 (4) | 42 | 8 (4) | 8 | 14 (3) | 17 | 14 (3) | 10 | 9(2) |
| Zambia | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Zimbabwe | 1 | (1) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 148 | 56 (32) | 142 | 50 (18) | 54 | 62 (29) | 65 | 40 (31) | 52 | 27 (17) |

[1] Figures up until 15 November 2007.

*Table 2: European arrest warrants received[1]*

| Country | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria | 3 | 2 | 2 | — |
| Belgium | 15 | 13 | 2 | 3 |
| Bulgaria | — | — | — | — |
| Cyprus | — | 4 | — | — |
| Czech Republic | — | 5 | 10 | 12 |
| Denmark | 4 | 1 | 3 | — |
| Estonia | — | 1 | — | — |
| Finland | 4 | 2 | 1 | — |
| France | 11 | 22 | 12 | 6 |
| Germany | — | 42 | 15 | 13 |
| Gibraltar | — | — | — | — |
| Greece | — | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Hungary | — | 2 | 6 | — |
| Ireland | 14 | 24 | 22 | 14 |
| Italy | — | 11 | 10 | 8 |
| Latvia | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 |
| Lithuania | 29 | 78 | 55 | 27 |
| Luxembourg | — | — | — | — |
| Malta | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| The Netherlands | 5 | 5 | 6 | 16 |
| Poland | 11 | 42 | 80 | 109 |
| Portugal | 11 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Romania | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Slovakia | — | 9 | 2 | 5 |
| Slovenia | — | 3 | — | — |
| Spain | 11 | 26 | 3 | 6 |
| Sweden | 3 | 2 | 4 | — |

[1] European arrest warrants received by the UK by member state (where subject has been arrested). It is a matter of policy and practice to neither confirm nor deny the existence of any extradition request ahead of a person's arrest.

*Table 3: Surrenders from the UK*

| Country | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria | — | — | 2 | — |
| Belgium | 3 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| Bulgaria | — | — | — | — |
| Cyprus | — | — | — | — |
| Czech Republic | — | — | — | 15 |
| Denmark | — | 3 | — | 2 |
| Estonia | — | — | — | — |
| Finland | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| France | 1 | 4 | 15 | 8 |
| Germany | — | 8 | 16 | 19 |
| Gibraltar | — | — | — | — |
| Greece | — | — | 2 | — |

*Table 3: Surrenders from the UK*

| Country | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hungary | — | — | 3 | 1 |
| Ireland | 4 | 11 | 20 | 23 |
| Italy | — | — | 5 | 9 |
| Latvia | — | — | 2 | 7 |
| Lithuania | 3 | 25 | 48 | 54 |
| Luxembourg | — | — | — | — |
| Malta | — | — | — | 1 |
| The Netherlands | 3 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Poland | — | 4 | 20 | 120 |
| Portugal | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Romania | — | — | — | 2 |
| Slovakia | — | — | 4 | 4 |
| Slovenia | — | — | — | — |
| Spain | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| Sweden | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 |

*Table 4: European arrest warrant—discharges[1]*

| Country | Discharged |
|---|---|
| Austria | — |
| Belgium | 4 |
| Bulgaria | — |
| Cyprus | 4 |
| Czech Republic | 3 |
| Denmark | — |
| Estonia | — |
| Finland | — |
| France | 9 |
| Germany | 11 |
| Gibraltar | — |
| Greece | — |
| Hungary | — |
| Ireland | 2 |
| Italy | 5 |
| Latvia | 3 |
| Lithuania | 9 |
| Luxembourg | — |
| Malta | — |
| The Netherlands | 7 |
| Poland | 18 |
| Portugal | 8 |
| Romania | 1 |
| Slovakia | 4 |
| Slovenia | 2 |
| Spain | 9 |
| Sweden | 1 |

[1] Cases where the subject has been discharged by UK court.

## Firearms: Crime

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* gun crimes and *(b)* arrests relating to gun crime there were (i) in England and (ii) in each police force area in each of the last five years. [165681]

**Mr. Coaker:** Available data relate to offences involving firearms (excluding air weapons) from 2001-02 up to and including 2005-06 and are given in the table. Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.

The arrests collection undertaken by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform provides data only on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

*Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used by police force area: England and Wales 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| | Recorded crime | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *2001-02*[1] | *2002-03*[2] | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
| *North east region* | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 24 | 18 | 45 | 37 | 41 |
| Durham | 19 | 16 | 15 | 21 | 18 |
| Northumbria | 86 | 103 | 169 | 182 | 137 |
| *North west region* | | | | | |
| Cheshire | 50 | 31 | 44 | 61 | 71 |
| Cumbria | 9 | 13 | 11 | 26 | 18 |
| Greater Manchester | 1,361 | 1,240 | 1,275 | 1,268 | 1,200 |
| Lancashire | 103 | 66 | 58 | 259 | 372 |
| Merseyside | 299 | 318 | 483 | 491 | 485 |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber region* | | | | | |
| Humberside | 63 | 68 | 68 | 174 | 108 |
| North Yorkshire | 28 | 18 | 23 | 13 | 15 |
| South Yorkshire | 170 | 153 | 127 | 185 | 301 |
| West Yorkshire | 332 | 333 | 269 | 318 | 355 |
| *East Midlands region* | | | | | |
| Derbyshire | 58 | 73 | 75 | 149 | 109 |
| Leicestershire | 74 | 174 | 141 | 123 | 89 |
| Lincolnshire | 22 | 37 | 26 | 90 | 72 |
| Northamptonshire | 55 | 107 | 123 | 113 | 128 |
| Nottinghamshire | 204 | 264 | 233 | 305 | 277 |
| *West Midlands region* | | | | | |
| Staffordshire | 116 | 131 | 108 | 144 | 128 |
| Warwickshire | 53 | 62 | 102 | 73 | 76 |
| West Mercia | 54 | 48 | 62 | 151 | 115 |
| West Midlands | 1,289 | 1,101 | 1,138 | 959 | 946 |
| *London region* | 4,197 | 4,202 | 3,891 | 3,697 | 3,884 |
| *South East region* | | | | | |
| Hampshire | 58 | 97 | 130 | 148 | 85 |
| Kent | 60 | 64 | 65 | 100 | 142 |
| Surrey | 40 | 34 | 88 | 63 | 87 |
| Sussex | 155 | 136 | 82 | 67 | 85 |
| Thames Valley | 267 | 362 | 421 | 437 | 401 |
| *South West region* | | | | | |
| Avon and Somerset | 131 | 119 | 123 | 196 | 167 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 52 | 36 | 84 | 189 | 174 |
| Dorset | 34 | 17 | 45 | 49 | 27 |
| Gloucestershire | 89 | 92 | 108 | 87 | 77 |
| Wiltshire | 26 | 60 | 53 | 49 | 43 |
| *Wales* | | | | | |
| Dyfed Powys | 26 | 17 | 37 | 40 | 21 |
| Gwent | 18 | 52 | 74 | 85 | 53 |
| North Wales | 6 | 18 | 11 | 60 | 88 |
| South Wales | 56 | 74 | 47 | 104 | 71 |
| England and Wales | 10,023 | 10,348 | 10,338 | 11,071 | 11,084 |
| England and Wales excluding London region) | 5,826 | 6,046 | 6,447 | 7,374 | 7,200 |

[1] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

## Foreign Workers

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the number of non-EU citizens who have been given *(a)* the right to work and *(b)* the right to remain in the UK in each year since 1977. [167738]

**Mr. Byrne:** The available information can be found in the yearly Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

### Frontiers: Security

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on procurement for the e-borders system; and what the planned extent of the system is. [168440]

**Mr. Byrne:** A contract to deliver e-Borders was awarded to the Trusted Borders consortium led by Raytheon Systems Ltd on 14 November 2007. e-Borders is a multi-agency programme, led by the Border and Immigration Agency in partnership with HM Revenue and Customs, UKvisas and the police service, working with the security and intelligence agencies. Its main purpose is the collection and analysis of passenger, service and crew data provided by carriers (air, sea and rail) in respect of all journeys to and from the United Kingdom in advance of travel, supporting an intelligence led approach to operating border controls.

Information gathered by e-Borders will provide crucial aid to security and counter-terrorist work, providing the capability to risk assess all passengers and allowing the authorities to intervene, where necessary, against those considered to be high risk.

### Illegal Encampments

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the adequacy of police powers to tackle illegal encampments; and if she will make a statement. [167849]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Government are working with a number of key stakeholders to address public concerns about problems relating to unauthorised encampments through the Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement for Gypsies and Travellers set up in 2006, chaired by Sir Brian Briscoe. The Task Group is currently finalising its report to Ministers, which is expected to be published before the end of the year. The Interim Task Group report published in March 2007 was clear that effective enforcement against unauthorised sites will only be possible when there is appropriate provision of authorised sites.

### Immigration Controls: Football

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the likely effect of the proposed new points system for working migrants on professional footballers. [168132]

**Mr. Byrne:** Detailed impact assessments of the new points based system, including on professional sportspeople, will be made available as detailed proposals are brought forward.

### Opinion Leader Research

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts were awarded by her Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165273]

**Mr. Byrne:** Since 2003 the Department has let two contracts to Opinion Leader Research. The details of the contracts are as follows:

| *(a) Title and purpose of the project* | *(b) The cost to the public purse* | *(c)(i) Date project was put to tender* | *(c) (ii) Date awarded to Opinion Leader Research* | *(c)(iii) Date project carried out* | *(c)(iv) Date completed and findings put to the Department* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Factors influencing decision to apply for naturalisation in the UK | 11,750 | n/k | 14 March 2003 | 17 March 2003 to 11 April 2003 | 25 April 2003 |
| An exploration of factors that contribute to successful dispersal of asylum seekers | 12,000 | n/k | 9 April 2004 | 16 April 2004 to 20 May 2004 | 20 May 2004 |

To carry out a full search of all individual contracts prior to 2003 across Home Office headquarters and the executive agencies would incur disproportionate cost.

### Passport: Interviews

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passport interviews have been conducted since 1 June 2007. [167874]

**Meg Hillier:** The total number of interviews conducted up to Friday 16 November is 9,702. This includes 623 from the live trial, which was running before 1 June 2007.

### Police: Manpower

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total pay costs were of *(a)* Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, *(b)* the National Police Improvement Agency, *(c)* the Police Standards Unit and *(d)* the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each year since their inception; and how many staff worked in each organisation in each year. [165651]

**Mr. McNulty:** The total pay costs are as follows:

*(a) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)*

| | Total staff | £ million Total pay |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 137 | 8.9 |
| 2005-06 | 129 | 7.1 |
| 2004-05 | 128 | 7.0 |
| 2003-04 | 128 | 6.1 |
| 2002-03 | — | 5.8 |
| 2001-02 | — | 5.6 |
| 2000-01 | — | 4.5 |
| 1999-2000 | — | 3.7 |
| 1998-99 | — | 3.7 |
| 1997-98 | — | 3.9 |

The first HMIs were appointed under the provisions of the County and Borough Police Act 1856. However, numbers prior to 1997-98 are not readily available.

HMIC has been unable to provide complete staff numbers because changes in IT systems have meant data are not readily available prior to 2003-04.

Total staff numbers include HO and seconded staff.

*(b) National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)*

| | Total staff | £ million Total pay budget |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 1,834 | 89.9 |

The NPIA was established by the Police and Justice Act 2006 and began its work in April 2007.

As NPIA only commenced operations this financial year no annual cost information is yet available; we have therefore provided an indicative budget for the year.

NPIA pay budget includes NPIA civilian employees, police and other secondees, along with agency staff.

*(c) Police Standards Unit (PSU)*

| | Total staff | £ million Total pay costs |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 22 | 2.5 |
| 2005-06 | 58 | 3.1 |
| 2004-05 | 59 | [1]6 |
| 2003-04 | 66 | 2.9 |
| 2002-03 | [1]— | [1]— |
| 2001-02 | 29 | 0.645 |

[1] Unavailable

The budget and staffing data for PSU is managed at directorate level along with a number of other Home Office units. Only the figure for 2006-07 is disaggregated, all the rest include the other units.

In July 2007 the Police Standards Unit merged with the Partnership Performance Support Unit to form the Police and Partnership Standards Unit. The complement for the new unit is 33. The rationale for the merger is explained in the PCSD Director's Report 2006-07.

*2001-02*

In response to a parliamentary question on 17 June 2002, *Official Report*, column 108W, we stated that the costs from 1 July 01 to the 17 June 02 were £709,000. So an estimate for the financial year 2001-02 would be £645,000.

*2002-03*

We have been unable to locate data for 2002-03 within the timeframe available as data are stored on an old financial system.

*2003-04 to 2005-06*

These figures include the Police Performance and Framework Team including iQuanta, and the policy team, which from 2006-07 were counted as separate units.

*(d) Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)*

Total pay costs for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is a matter for them.

**Racial Violence**

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of religious hate crime were recorded in each police force area in each of the last five years. [168643]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information relates to racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police and is given in the table. It is not possible to identify separately those offences of a religious nature from those of a racial nature.

*Racially or religiously aggravated offences*

| Police force area | Number of offences 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 900 | 1,256 | 1,431 | 1,326 | 1,337 |
| Bedfordshire | 169 | 207 | 266 | 339 | 308 |
| British Transport Police | 402 | 652 | 946 | 1088 | 1188 |
| Cambridgeshire | 410 | 384 | 398 | 322 | 351 |
| Cheshire | 376 | 400 | 438 | 569 | 557 |
| Cleveland | 145 | 251 | 288 | 528 | 464 |
| Cumbria | 69 | 116 | 186 | 232 | 219 |
| Derbyshire | 560 | 600 | 474 | 494 | 492 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 496 | 588 | 694 | 818 | 801 |
| Dorset | 177 | 166 | 254 | 214 | 291 |

*Racially or religiously aggravated offences*

*Number of offences*

| *Police force area* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Durham | 371 | 138 | 154 | 258 | 304 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 96 | 126 | 154 | 118 | 167 |
| Essex | 558 | 760 | 807 | 796 | 922 |
| Gloucestershire | 210 | 167 | 215 | 283 | 326 |
| Greater Manchester | 2,353 | 2,864 | 3,203 | 3,398 | 3,677 |
| Gwent | 193 | 240 | 233 | 289 | 269 |
| Hampshire | 317 | 415 | 570 | 1,120 | 1,326 |
| Hertfordshire | 343 | 730 | 859 | 985 | 954 |
| Humberside | 302 | 438 | 488 | 417 | 655 |
| Kent | 547 | 480 | 609 | 798 | 935 |
| Lancashire | 860 | 1,085 | 1,183 | 1,363 | 1,238 |
| Leicestershire | 809 | 809 | 980 | 1,007 | 1,055 |
| Lincolnshire | 136 | 179 | 169 | 200 | 143 |
| London, City of | 71 | 60 | 48 | 75 | 83 |
| Merseyside | 734 | 943 | 1,061 | 1,420 | 1,423 |
| Metropolitan Police | 9,853 | 9,468 | 9,444 | 8,769 | 8,226 |
| Norfolk | 203 | 268 | 333 | 343 | 340 |
| Northamptonshire | 303 | 413 | 389 | 455 | 422 |
| Northumbria | 934 | 974 | 886 | 834 | 924 |
| North Wales | 288 | 278 | 331 | 396 | 356 |
| North Yorkshire | 80 | 54 | 133 | 205 | 234 |
| Nottinghamshire | 635 | 619 | 551 | 566 | 715 |
| South Wales | 737 | 794 | 735 | 713 | 555 |
| South Yorkshire | 242 | 259 | 471 | 1,032 | 1,037 |
| Staffordshire | 466 | 600 | 646 | 805 | 889 |
| Suffolk | 246 | 297 | 244 | 240 | 329 |
| Surrey | 407 | 482 | 510 | 845 | 588 |
| Sussex | 443 | 552 | 575 | 710 | 991 |
| Thames valley | 948 | 1,104 | 1,154 | 1,128 | 1,483 |
| Warwickshire | 159 | 187 | 222 | 293 | 375 |
| West Mercia | 527 | 674 | 609 | 527 | 499 |
| West Midlands | 2,422 | 2,479 | 2,413 | 3,071 | 3,338 |
| West Yorkshire | 707 | 1,874 | 2,140 | 2,898 | 2,91 |
| Wiltshire | 232 | 244 | 220 | 260 | 253 |
| England and Wales | 31,436 | 35,674 | 38,114 | 42,547 | 43,730 |

[1] Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding, harassment, assault without injury and criminal damage.

## Registration of Births Deaths Marriages and Civil Partnerships

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to provide updated guidance for the Certificate of Approval for marriage or civil partnership applications online. [167615]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The guidance for Certificate of Approval for marriage or civil partnership applications was revised in 2006 and again in 2007 following court judgements, and these changes are reflected in the guidance currently available in the Library of the House and on

www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/generalcaseworking/coaformarriageorcivilpartnership

and

www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/applicationforms/

The Certificate of Approval scheme is subject to judicial review, and we will review the guidance and forms and make any amendments necessary in the light of the outcome of the judicial review.

## Road Traffic Offences

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of (i) failure to accord correct precedence at pedestrian crossings, (ii) failure to comply with traffic signs, (iii) speeding offences, (iv) driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, (v) reckless driving and (vi) driving while disqualified in (A) each police force area and (B) England and Wales, in each year since 1997. [167008]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on drivers charged with motoring offences is not collected centrally.

Available information on convictions for the offences listed is held by the Ministry of Justice and copies can be found in the House Library. These cover the total findings of guilt at all courts, from 1997 to 2005 (latest available).

2006 data will be available next year.

## Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect she expects the doctrine of Community preference to have on the countries from which workers come under the seasonal agricultural workers scheme; whether she has had discussions with her Polish, Belgian and Cypriot counterparts on their decisions to allow seasonal agricultural workers from non-EU countries to continue to work; and if she will make a statement. [165643]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The accession treaty for Bulgaria and Romania requires the UK to give preference to accession state workers over non-EU workers. Accordingly, non EU nationals cannot be treated more favourably.

While transitional restrictions continue to be in place on Romanian and Bulgarian nationals' access to the UK labour market, we will not be providing for migration from nationals outside the EU on specific low-skilled schemes. Therefore in 2008, applications to the seasonal agricultural workers scheme will only be accepted from Romania and Bulgaria.

This was confirmed in my written ministerial statement issued on 30 October 2007 regarding the application of SAWS from 2008:

"From 2008 applications to the existing 'Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme' will be accepted only from Romania and Bulgaria—meaning a potential increase from 6,500 A2 migrant workers through this scheme this year to 16,250 next year. The overall number of migrants coming to the UK through SAWS is unchanged."

No new statement is planned regarding SAWS.

The Government have ongoing discussions with European counterparts on a range of issues including accession. It is for each EU member state to determine the application of the community preference principle to their labour market.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the proposals in the Communication from the European Commission on circular migration and mobility partnerships between the European Union and third countries on the Government's review of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers scheme. [165645]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* While the Government recognise many of the principles underpinning the European Commission's communication, for example close co-operation and dialogue between countries, they do not believe that the UK can benefit from encouraging low skilled migration from outside the European Union. There is sufficient labour within the enlarged EU to fill all low skilled vacancies including the Seasonal Agricultural Worker scheme.

The SAWS quota for 2008 will be 16,250, and applications will only be accepted from Romania and Bulgaria.

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she had discussions at EU level on the UK's decision to restrict 40 per cent. of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers scheme to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals; and if she will make a statement; [166607]

(2) whether she has held discussions at EU level on the principle of community preference in respect of the Seasonal Agricultural Worker scheme. [166613]

**Mr. Byrne** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The Home Office has not had discussions with EU partners on either of these points.

## Speed Limits: Fines

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were fined for speeding in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* in each police force area in each year since 1997; and how much was paid in fines in each area in each year. [167006]

**Mr. Coaker:** Information on the total revenue from speed limit convictions is not collected centrally.

Available information collected centrally and held by the Ministry of Justice identifies the amount of court imposed fines for such offences within each police force area together with the number of fixed penalties offered. Not all fines and fixed penalties will have been paid.

Available information from 1997 to 2005 (latest available) showing the total number of court imposed fines and fixed penalty notices issued for speeding offences in England and Wales and by police force area are provided in tables A and B respectively.

2006 data will be available next year.

*Table A: number of fines[1,2] imposed at magistrates courts for speed limit offences[3] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2005*

*Number of offences*

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 7,738 | 5,643 | 3,532 | 4,344 | 5,709 | 4,974 | 6,815 | 6,923 | 6,358 |
| Bedfordshire | 1,746 | 3,432 | 1,913 | 2,019 | 2,332 | 1,551 | 3,521 | 1,171 | 4,507 |
| Cambridgeshire | 4,932 | 3,130 | 2,653 | 1,625 | 756 | 521 | 1,163 | 1,754 | 2,191 |
| Cheshire | 2,709 | 3,839 | 3,621 | 4,591 | 3,899 | 3,969 | 3,088 | 4,153 | 2,793 |
| Cleveland | 511 | 976 | 1,001 | 984 | 1,323 | 1,120 | 1,282 | 1,665 | 1,093 |
| Cumbria | 2,073 | 2,181 | 2,068 | 1,521 | 1,548 | 1,604 | 2,002 | 2,366 | 2,549 |
| Derbyshire | 3,366 | 3,854 | 4,209 | 4,933 | 6,005 | 3,685 | 3,527 | 3,329 | 2,853 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 3,976 | 3,229 | 3,488 | 4,247 | 3,809 | 3,415 | 4,862 | 4,869 | 5,102 |

*Table A: number of fines[1,2] imposed at magistrates courts for speed limit offences[3] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2005*

*Number of offences*

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dorset | 737 | 695 | 792 | 1,213 | 902 | 999 | 1,486 | 1,666 | 3,058 |
| Durham | 345 | 408 | 905 | 1,364 | 1,749 | 1,603 | 1,042 | 716 | 391 |
| Essex | 5,034 | 4,743 | 6,618 | 6,275 | 9,131 | 14,570 | 9,263 | 8,292 | 9,960 |
| Gloucestershire | 2,343 | 1,796 | 1,509 | 2,131 | 1,835 | 877 | 800 | 786 | 750 |
| Greater Manchester | 10,837 | 14,458 | 13,228 | 14,505 | 10,375 | 7,182 | 6,265 | 4,745 | 7,220 |
| Hampshire | 5,565 | 6,316 | 7,146 | 5,995 | 5,416 | 4,949 | 5,270 | 4,237 | 5,050 |
| Hertfordshire | 2,116 | 2,838 | 2,771 | 2,277 | 2,088 | 2,334 | 2,167 | 1,806 | 2,990 |
| Humberside | 959 | 1,037 | 2,828 | 1,906 | 2,434 | 1,131 | 1,179 | 3,592 | 3,241 |
| Kent | 1,533 | 3,548 | 1,814 | 2,245 | 2,367 | 1,670 | 2,995 | 3,223 | 3,636 |
| Lancashire | 3,904 | 5,067 | 5,257 | 5,166 | 4,370 | 3,833 | 6,759 | 5,030 | 4,742 |
| Leicestershire | 1,180 | 1,858 | 2,255 | 2,001 | 1,750 | 1,726 | 3,036 | 2,173 | 2,184 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,880 | 2,103 | 3,874 | 3,528 | 4,131 | 3,692 | 4,257 | 4,356 | 4,362 |
| London, City of | 125 | 232 | 232 | 163 | 101 | 560 | 1,137 | 1,790 | 6,200 |
| Merseyside | 3,110 | 2,002 | 2,155 | 1,322 | 635 | 579 | 911 | 893 | 679 |
| Metropolitan Police | 10,988 | 11,045 | 9,203 | 8,269 | 8,840 | 7,530 | 7,080 | 6,646 | 4,361 |
| Norfolk | 1,225 | 1,380 | 1,697 | 1,374 | 1,449 | 1,269 | 2,372 | 2,764 | 2,824 |
| Northamptonshire | 228 | 92 | 557 | 246 | 403 | 222 | 2,836 | 4,001 | 3,342 |
| Northumbria | 2,100 | 2,304 | 2,569 | 3,519 | 2,352 | 2,555 | 2,207 | 3,770 | 2,886 |
| North Yorkshire | 2,037 | 1,766 | 1,408 | 1,208 | 1,412 | 1,236 | 1,515 | 2,034 | 1,545 |
| Nottinghamshire | 580 | 1,083 | 1,236 | 1,332 | 1,707 | 2,025 | 3,780 | 4,146 | 4,593 |
| South Yorkshire | 2,235 | 2,304 | 2,265 | 2,484 | 2,587 | 1,776 | 1,181 | 2,584 | 4,040 |
| Staffordshire | 2,663 | 3,196 | 3,239 | 1,815 | 929 | 1,091 | 2,220 | 4,449 | 4,408 |
| Suffolk | 1,041 | 1,455 | 1,648 | 1,210 | 1,236 | 1,266 | 763 | 1,820 | 3,213 |
| Surrey | 1,467 | 2,137 | 3,220 | 2,911 | 3,457 | 2,005 | 1,493 | 279 | 2,875 |
| Sussex | 3,825 | 3,740 | 3,258 | 3,492 | 2,619 | 1,745 | 2,783 | 247 | 3,353 |
| Thames Valley | 9,507 | 14,264 | 10,814 | 7,801 | 9,190 | 10,989 | 9,339 | 8,862 | 8,290 |
| Warwickshire | 1,145 | 1,296 | 2,960 | 4,636 | 3,624 | 1,743 | 2,323 | 1,707 | 1,842 |
| West Mercia | 2,259 | 2,305 | 2,259 | 2,696 | 2,586 | 2,214 | 1,320 | 383 | 2,023 |
| West Midlands | 5,652 | 8,622 | 7,339 | 3,455 | 3,949 | 4,706 | 5,069 | 7,362 | 5,397 |
| West Yorkshire | 3,738 | 4,245 | 5,553 | 5,619 | 4,442 | 2,295 | 3,349 | 4,263 | 5,204 |
| Wiltshire | 4,484 | 5,428 | 5,669 | 2,301 | 2,163 | 2,678 | 4,037 | 4,022 | 4,180 |
| England | 121,893 | 140,047 | 138,763 | 128,723 | 125,610 | 113,889 | 126,494 | 128,874 | 146,285 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Dyfed Powys | 634 | 767 | 771 | 913 | 650 | 614 | 1,548 | 1,231 | 1,904 |
| Gwent | 4,728 | 6,349 | 7,393 | 4,036 | 2,813 | 2,238 | 2,645 | 2,270 | 2,094 |
| North Wales | 1,364 | 1,538 | 1,594 | 2,810 | 2,655 | 3,834 | 4,319 | 4,597 | 4,612 |
| South Wales | 1,986 | 2,651 | 2,706 | 2,706 | 1,754 | 1,980 | 2,924 | 4,146 | 3,350 |
| Wales | 8,712 | 11,305 | 12,464 | 10,465 | 7,872 | 8,666 | 11,436 | 12,244 | 11,960 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Total England and Wales | 130,605 | 151,352 | 151,227 | 139,188 | 133,482 | 122,555 | 137,930 | 141,118 | 158,245 |

[1] May include cases where a fixed penalty notice was issued and not paid and referred to court.
[2] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown Court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 20 each year.
[3] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973

*Notes:*
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences are less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Table B: fixed penalty notices issued[1] for speed limit offences[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2005*

*Number of offences*

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999[3]* | *2000[3]* | *2001[3]* | *2002[3]* | *2003[3]* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 7,294 | 18,327 | 25,897 | 36,122 | 30,339 | 53,846 | 99,405 | 85,331 | 67,933 |
| Bedfordshire | 8,700 | 10,255 | 18,008 | 16,707 | 13,415 | 40,338 | 66,709 | 56,762 | 44,736 |
| Cambridgeshire | 14,837 | 13,818 | 14,562 | 8,708 | 6,777 | 15,435 | 28,510 | 19,802 | 44,997 |
| Cheshire | 10,765 | 23,196 | 16,393 | 15,356 | 16,694 | 13,578 | 29,564 | 40,306 | 25,056 |
| Cleveland | 3,239 | 10,734 | 7,717 | 23,228 | 24,160 | 25,264 | 24,729 | 19,939 | 24,912 |
| Cumbria | 4,882 | 4,919 | 5,058 | 4,103 | 3,649 | 5,797 | 24,692 | 31,531 | 27,441 |
| Derbyshire | 17,438 | 22,785 | 21,771 | 18,291 | 24,949 | 71,965 | 44,517 | 44,412 | 30,905 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 36,150 | 32,757 | 33,682 | 28,091 | 33,389 | 31,144 | 63,916 | 91,662 | 53,474 |
| Dorset | 11,172 | 14,738 | 14,815 | 18,305 | 19,605 | 18,686 | 63,185 | 71,832 | 79,522 |
| Durham | 3,213 | 3,930 | 4,586 | 9,180 | 14,156 | 7,697 | 6,538 | 4,184 | 2,816 |
| Essex | 48,123 | 19,282 | 38,097 | 56,010 | 87,038 | 101,063 | 66,281 | 68,852 | 85,745 |

*Table B: fixed penalty notices issued[1] for speed limit offences[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997-2005*

*Number of offences*

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999[3]* | *2000[3]* | *2001[3]* | *2002[3]* | *2003[3]* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gloucestershire | 6,260 | 8,714 | 6,268 | 5,781 | 4,097 | 3,898 | 3,139 | 4,913 | 10,849 |
| Greater Manchester | 54,694 | 51,145 | 64,318 | 59,765 | 50,448 | 35,861 | 44,903 | 43,531 | 59,478 |
| Hampshire | 27,460 | 34,555 | 46,709 | 27,566 | 28,995 | 31,867 | 45,324 | 52,587 | 58,750 |
| Hertfordshire | 17,604 | 14,063 | 25,687 | 23,956 | 23,474 | 23,203 | 28,696 | 61,637 | 49,738 |
| Humberside | 9,735 | 13,759 | 12,671 | 22,209 | 17,228 | 13,399 | 25,755 | 52,288 | 48,494 |
| Kent | 28,706 | 28,009 | 18,954 | 24,617 | 23,044 | 36,645 | 54,594 | 66,661 | 53,289 |
| Lancashire | 23,813 | 32,810 | 35,335 | 29,683 | 27,993 | 158,163 | 96,660 | 63,233 | 63,568 |
| Leicestershire | 5,612 | 9,729 | 8,791 | 8,094 | 7,750 | 17,903 | 45,417 | 26,357 | 7,281 |
| Lincolnshire | 6,588 | 12,368 | 17,913 | 26,319 | 31,487 | 27,490 | 27,970 | 29,258 | 32,613 |
| London, City of | 520 | 907 | 2,423 | 353 | 713 | 4,782 | 4,864 | 6,358 | 10,275 |
| Merseyside | 11,808 | 15,373 | 15,968 | 7,385 | 4,100 | 6,484 | 8,883 | 8,058 | 18,411 |
| Metropolitan Police | 45,488 | 36,690 | 32,061 | 54,843 | 58,412 | 53,334 | 80,213 | 104,920 | 126,426 |
| Norfolk | 4,895 | 5,379 | 9,267 | 4,783 | 5,166 | 17,116 | 31,640 | 26,938 | 25,117 |
| Northamptonshire | 3,722 | 8,836 | 7,772 | 34,809 | 79,627 | 60,459 | 49,902 | 49,108 | 47,866 |
| Northumbria | 25,693 | 34,918 | 37,472 | 24,265 | 40,726 | 41,050 | 69,018 | 94,319 | 55,708 |
| North Yorkshire | 11,679 | 9,924 | 6,908 | 5,295 | 7,436 | 5,412 | 5,836 | 5,971 | 4,923 |
| Nottinghamshire | 4,625 | 6,289 | 5,512 | 23,766 | 24,556 | 35,771 | 53,276 | 53,188 | 53,696 |
| South Yorkshire | 39,062 | 31,585 | 23,544 | 20,987 | 21,566 | 16,096 | 51,418 | 42,635 | 65,352 |
| Staffordshire | 22,552 | 22,044 | 14,656 | 13,969 | 20,372 | 29,094 | 47,565 | 41,249 | 46,219 |
| Suffolk | 7,271 | 12,640 | 18,088 | 12,596 | 12,416 | 9,477 | 16,606 | 40,847 | 40,029 |
| Surrey | 5,340 | 10,252 | 11,035 | 12,072 | 10,424 | 6,052 | 7,057 | 8,200 | 17,509 |
| Sussex | 25,124 | 24,862 | 22,370 | 24,990 | 18,513 | 23,550 | 60,364 | 45,619 | 58,606 |
| Thames Valley | 53,285 | 62,827 | 46,034 | 71,888 | 154,524 | 121,677 | 123,586 | 92,834 | 97,049 |
| Warwickshire | 1,857 | 2,510 | 2,745 | 2,099 | 3,136 | 14,999 | 27,737 | 34,206 | 40,401 |
| West Mercia | 15,392 | 15,502 | 18,478 | 22,150 | 30,504 | 29,098 | 78,408 | 57,844 | 53,711 |
| West Midlands | 9,378 | 11,586 | 9,546 | 5,668 | 15,806 | 17,762 | 43,542 | 58,052 | 46,612 |
| West Yorkshire | 24,103 | 29,635 | 24,791 | 24,595 | 20,937 | 32,126 | 70,011 | 68,827 | 66,031 |
| Wiltshire | 11,330 | 8,494 | 9,319 | 16,351 | 17,941 | 27,975 | 42,738 | 50,641 | 52,412 |
| England | 669,409 | 730,146 | 755,221 | 844,955 | 1,035,562 | 1,285,556 | 1,763,168 | 1,824,892 | 1,797,950 |
| Dyfed Powys | 6,708 | 9,272 | 8,222 | 8,840 | 6,868 | 12,343 | 3,072 | 2,221 | 1,435 |
| Gwent | 5,263 | 4,214 | 2,050 | 16,518 | 13,209 | 2,960 | 1,013 | 859 | 506 |
| North Wales | 9,146 | 9,920 | 11,141 | 16,980 | 20,245 | 44,459 | 61,645 | 51,069 | 74,485 |
| South Wales | 22,227 | 27,464 | 28,850 | 54,383 | 75,224 | 61,948 | 65,852 | 45,343 | 45,189 |
| Wales | 43,344 | 50,870 | 50,263 | 96,721 | 115,546 | 121,710 | 131,582 | 99,492 | 121,615 |
| Total England and Wales | 712,753 | 781,016 | 805,484 | 941,676 | 1,151,108 | 1,407,266 | 1,894,750 | 1,924,384 | 1,919,565 |

[1] Only covers notices paid where there is no further action.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[3] Revised since original publication following amendments received from forces.
*Note:*
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

## Theft: Lead

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of thefts of lead from roofs in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [168606]

**Mr. McNulty:** Statistics concerning the number of thefts of lead from roofs are not available. Such offences would be recorded under the 'other theft' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within that classification.

## Touting: Tickets

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminal proceedings involving alleged ticket touting at football matches under section 166 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 have been pursued since the Act came into force; and how many convictions have been secured. [169533]

**Mr. Coaker:** Detailed information on football-related arrests has been collated by the Football Banning Orders Authority since the football season 2001-2002, when the existing banning order framework was introduced. The table provides details of prosecutions, convictions and cautions in respect of ticket touting offences during the previous six football seasons.

*Prosecutions under section 166 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, England and Wales, 2001-2007 football seasons*

| *Football season* | *Prosecutions* | *Convictions* | *Cautions* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 96 | 28 | 21 |
| 2002-03 | 56 | 25 | 18 |

*Prosecutions under section 166 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, England and Wales, 2001-2007 football seasons*

| *Football season* | *Prosecutions* | *Convictions* | *Cautions* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 42 | 25 | 7 |
| 2004-05 | 72 | 28 | 7 |
| 2005-06 | 47 | 25 | 6 |
| 2006-07 | [1]24 | 13 | 8 |

[1] A number of prosecutions for offences committed during season 2006-07 are currently in the Criminal Justice System *Source:* Football Banning Orders Authority.

## UK Passport Agency

**Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where the 69 local offices to be opened by the UK Passport Agency for the purpose of interviews are. [167873]

**Meg Hillier:** The UK Passport Agency became the Identity and Passport Service in April 2006.

The locations of the passport interview offices are as follows:

Belfast
Newcastle
Peterborough
Liverpool
Swansea
Sheffield
Stoke on Trent
Reading
Lincoln
London
Oban
Cheltenham
Newport IOW
Northampton
Abertystwyth
Sleaford
Bury St. Edmunds
Armagh
Berwick Upon Tweed
Omagh
Exeter
Derby
Brighton/Hastings[1]
Glasgow
Leicester
Leeds
Crawley
Birmingham
Wrexham
Bristol
Portsmouth
Scarborough
Yeovil
Kingston Upon Hull
Carlisle
Dover
Shrewsbury
Coleraine
Ripon
Warwick
Kendal
Bournemouth
Selkirk
Kilmarnock[2]
Dumfries
Kings Lynn
Plymouth
Newport
Chelmsford
Edinburgh
Manchester
Luton
Middlesbrough
Ipswich
Blackburn
Stirling
Norwich
Inverness
Aberdeen
York
Redruth
Wick
Andover
South Molton
Swindon
Oxford
St. Austell
Dundee
Maidstone

[1] We are unable to acquire premises in Hastings and are currently searching for premises in Brighton

[2] We are in the process of acquiring a lease for premises in Kilmarnock.

## Workers Registration Scheme

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of A8 workers *(a)* working in the UK and *(b)* who have come to work in the UK since May 2004 who have not registered with the worker registration scheme because of (i) self-employment and (ii) another reason. [166977]

**Mr. Byrne:** The number of approved initial registrations under the Worker Registration Scheme between May 2004 and September 2007 was 715,000. The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) Regulations 2004 do not require Accession state nationals to notify the Home Office when they cease employment or leave the UK. As such the aforementioned figure is cumulative and shows the number of Accession state nationals who have registered their initial employment since May 2004.

The Home Office does not monitor the number of Accession state nationals exempt from the Worker Registration Scheme who come to the UK to work. This includes individuals who are working as self-employed and others covered by an exemption in the Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) Regulations 2004.

Figures stated in this response are taken from the Accession Monitoring Report (May 2004—September 2007) which was published 20 November 2007.

### Youth Justice Board

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of Youth Justice Board projects to prevent youth crime and antisocial behaviour as part of the commitments under the Respect Action Plan. [167534]

**Mr. Coaker:** Since 2004, the Government have invested over £45 million in youth offending teams to fund targeted youth crime and antisocial behaviour prevention activities for young people at most risk.

By November 2007 there were over 500 Safer Schools Partnerships (SSPs), 200 Youth Inclusion and Support Panels (YISPs), 110 Youth Inclusion Programmes (YIPs) and 120 Parenting Programmes. We estimate that over 25,000 children and young people received targeted support from these programmes during 2007.

An evaluation by the university of Newcastle, published in October 2007, concluded that YISPs improved the mental health and school results of the young participants. A recent interim evaluation of YIPs concluded that they were responsible for a substantial reduction in offending and arrest rates for the most at risk. Evaluations of SSPs have shown they reduce truancy rates in comparison with non-SSP schools.

A full independent evaluation of the YJB's prevention programmes by the university of York is due to be presented in an interim report by March 2008.

## JUSTICE

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168591]

**Mr. Hanson:** One office desktop computer and 26 laptops have been stolen from the Ministry of Justice in 2007. The total replacement value of these items is approximately £50,000.

The losses were from a variety of locations across England and Wales. There have been no reported security breaches.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* citizens' juries, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other deliberative forms of public opinion research in each month since January 2006. [166587]

**Mr. Wills:** The following table gives the details of focus groups and other deliberative forms of public opinion research carried out by the Ministry of Justice since January 2006, including the month of the fieldwork and the total cost of the project. The Ministry of Justice has undertaken 18 projects involving focus groups, and two projects involving other deliberative forms of public opinion research. There have been no citizens' juries in this period.

The Department undertakes research including focus groups and deliberative research on various subjects when this is the most effective and appropriate means of building up an evidence base to support the development and delivery of policy and public services. We particularly use focus groups and deliberative research when the issues considered are complex and require a more in-depth engagement with respondents to understand their perspective and views.

These cost £256,488 for work contracted in 2005-06; £611,822 for work contracted in 2006-07; and £49,811 in work contracted in 2007 to the present day.

| *Name of the project* | *Type of research: (a) citizen juries (b) Focus groups (c) other deliberative forms of public opinion research* | *Approximate month(s) of fieldwork, where available* | *Total spend in 2005-06 (exc. VAT)* | *Total spend in 2006-07 (exc. VAT)* | *Total spend in 2007-08 (exc. VAT) up to now* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Items contracted in 2005-06* | | | 107,831 | 148,657 | 0 |
| | | | | | 256,488 |
| Witness Charter Focus Groups | Focus group | December 2005 to March 2006 | 5,618 | — | — |
| Green Paper. Rebuilding Lives: Supporting Victims of Crime consultation | Focus group | February 2006 | 55,200 | — | — |
| MATV Pilot and DVD for witnesses pilot | Focus group | February 2006 and April 2006 | 5,218 | 114,506 | — |
| Confidence in the Criminal Justice System: What lies beneath? | Focus group | March 2006 | 17,495 | — | — |
| Public Attitudes to Alternatives to Prosecution | Focus group | March/April 2006 | 24,300 | 16,200 | — |
| Information needs of Receivers/Attorneys | Focus group | June 2006 | — | 4,451 | — |

| *Name of the project* | *Type of research: (a) citizen juries (b) Focus groups (c) other deliberative forms of public opinion research* | *Approximate month(s) of fieldwork, where available* | *Total spend in 2005-06 (exc. VAT)* | *Total spend in 2006-07 (exc. VAT)* | *Total spend in 2007-08 (exc. VAT) up to now* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Board Victim and Witness Focus Group Project Evaluation. Grant awarded to Avon and Somerset LCJB as part of a wider competitive Delivery Fund for LCJBs to improve the quality of information provided to victims and witnesses. | Focus group | March 2007 | — | 13,500 | — |
| *Items contracted in 2006-07* | | | 0 | 360,412 | 251,410 |
| | | | | 611,822 | |
| Public attitudes towards summary justice in England and Wales | Focus group | April/May 2006 | — | 41,340 | — |
| Operation of Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) | Focus group | October and November 2006 | — | 25,090 | — |
| What's cost got to do with it?: the impact of changing court fees on users. Note: Focus groups were only one part of the project | Focus group | October/November 2006 | — | 48,480 | — |
| Public panel scrutiny of the draft Coroners Bill | Focus group | November 2006 | — | 13,182 | — |
| Citizenship Insight Project | Focus group | Late 2006 | — | 31,120 | 90,610 |
| Community Justice Leicester | Other deliberative public opinion research | February to September 2007 | — | — | 30,000 |
| Customer Expectation Survey | Focus group | April/May 2007 | — | — | 37,000 |
| Improving public confidence in the Criminal Justice System; inform, persuade and remind. | Focus group | August 2007 | — | 151,200 | 19,800 |
| Community Justice Merthyr Tydfil | Focus group | 2006-07 | — | — | 24,000 |
| The Victims Advisor Panel | Other deliberative public opinion research | Ongoing | — | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| *Items contracted in 2007-08* | | | 0 | 0 | 49,811 |
| | | | | 49,811 | |
| Research on development of the Before The Event legal expenses insurance | Focus group | June to August 2007 | — | — | 20,011 |
| Six public focus groups testing of wording of the Departmental Strategic Objectives | Focus group | September 2007 | — | — | 19,800 |
| Justice and Schools | Focus group | October 2007 | — | — | 10,000 |
| | | | 107,831 | 509,069 | 301,221 |
| Total spend | | | | 918,121 | |

*Note:*
Please note costs refer to complete project which often includes more than just focus groups or other deliberative research.

## Environment Protection: Fixed Penalties

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of fixed penalty notices issued for environmental offences were paid in full within the 14 day deadline in each year since 1999. [168611]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA does not collect data on the number of fixed penalty notices that were paid within the 14 day period.

The number of fixed penalty notices issued and paid to local authorities since 1999 is shown in the following table.

Figures for 2006-2007 will be published shortly.

| *April to March* | *Number of fixed penalties issued by local authorities* | *Number of fixed penalties paid to local authorities* |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 2,970 | 1,563 |
| 2000-01 | 2,247 | 1,226 |
| 2001-02 | 2,311 | 1,954 |
| 2002-03 | 12,820 | 4,898 |
| 2003-04 | 7,567 | 3,871 |
| 2004-05 | 25,216 | 11,371 |
| 2005-06 | 33,033 | 18,002 |

### Home Detention Curfews: Foreigners

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people granted home detention curfew in the last 12 months were foreign nationals. [169632]

**Mr. Hanson:** The latest available information relates to 2005. Of the 17,296 prisoners released on home detention curfew in 2005, there were 1,154 foreign nationals. This represented 7 per cent. of all releases on HOC.

Foreign national prisoners who are liable to deportation at the end of their sentence are not eligible for release on home detention curfew.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Prisoners Release: Domestic Violence

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those released on end of custody licence between 29 June 2007 and 31 October 2007 had been convicted of domestic violence offences. [169630]

**Mr. Hanson:** Domestic violence is not a specific offence and the information requested is therefore not available.

Information on the numbers of ECL releases, by offence group, for September 2007, is published in the monthly publication 'End of Custody Licence releases and recalls' available from the website:

http://www.iustice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm.

ECL was introduced as a temporary measure and we will keep under review the length of time it will remain in use in the light of new prison capacity coming on stream and the review by Lord Carter.

### Security Breaches

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many acknowledged security breaches there have been of *(a)* Libra, *(b)* C-NOMIS, *(c)* ViSOR and *(d)* other IT systems controlled by his Department. [169628]

**Mr. Hanson:** There have been no security breaches of the Libra or C-NOMIS systems.

ViSOR is a Home Office system, and in the areas to which the Ministry of Justice has access, there have been no security breaches

A small number of incidents involving other IT systems have been investigated and no security breach involving loss of information from the Department was found to have occurred.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Building Regulations: Digital Broadcasting

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether she plans to make any changes to the building regulations to support digital switchover; [168511]

(2) what standards or minimum requirements for digital television receiving infrastructure are included in the building regulations to support digital switchover; [168512]

(3) what estimate she has made of the proportion of newly-built dwellings for multiple occupation equipped with communal digital television receiving infrastructure. [168515]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There are currently no requirements for the provision of digital television receiving infrastructure contained within the building regulations. Therefore, we do not collect any data on the proportion of newly built dwellings equipped with communal digital television receiving infrastructure.

We have considered changes to the building regulations to support the provision of data services, and the digital switchover. However, this is a fast-moving area of technology and we therefore consider it unsuited to prescriptive regulation which could quickly become out of date. In addition, a public consultation exercise undertaken by the Department in 2003 indicated a preference for a non-regulatory option.

We are therefore working with industry on a non-mandatory good practice guidance document on data ducting infrastructure for new homes which we hope to publish shortly.

### Community Relations: Religion

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, how the £70 million for community projects devoted to countering extremism announced by the Prime Minister will be spent; and how much *(a)* was spent in 2006-07 and *(b)* will be spent in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) each of the next three years. [168398]

**Mr. Dhanda:** In his statement of 14 November, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister confirmed that £70 million is being invested in community projects that are dedicated to countering violent extremism over the next three years (financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11).

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 31 October that around £25 million of that would be invested in national schemes to directly support communities, including:

Equipping faith leaders with the skills and understanding required to lead communities, building their capacity to engage with young people on the challenges they face, including extremism. For example, ensuring imams can communicate more effectively with young people;

Support communities to broaden the provision of citizenship education in mosque schools, equipping young people themselves with the understanding and arguments to reject extremists' messages;

Developing new minimum standards for public institutions (e.g. prisons, universities) engaging imams working with young or vulnerable people;

Supporting the Charity Commission's work to improve governance standards in faith institutions, including mosques;

Increase the provision of leadership training available to Muslim communities, particularly women and young people.

Further announcements will be made as and when the details of the funding are decided.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State also announced £45 million would be available to local authorities and their community partners. This will build on work funded by the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund in 2007-08, guidance on which can be found at www.communities.gov.uk/communities/preventingextremism. Further guidance will be issued in due course.

On 26 November 2007, the Department for Communities and Local Government allocated a budget of £8.7 million of programme funding for preventing extremism during the financial year 2007-08.

In the 2006-07 financial year £1.4 million of programme funding was spent on projects to prevent violent extremism by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, which Muslim women were consulted on the new advisory group on Muslim women announced by the Prime Minister. [168410]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The National Muslim Women's Advisory Group (NMWAG) is an independent informal group, which will advise the Department for Communities and Local Government on issues to empower Muslim women and increase their participation in civic, economic and social life.

NMWAG comprises a group of women who are in positions of leadership or are working with the communities. They will act as role models and represent the views and concerns of grass-roots Muslim women.

The group will be formally launched in January 2008.

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, what the remit is of the new advisory group in relation to Muslim women announced by the Prime Minister; who she expects its members to be; what she expects its cost to be; and if she will make a statement. [168412]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The National Muslim Women's Advisory Group (NMWAG) is an independent informal group, which will advise the Department for Communities and Local Government on issues to empower Muslim women and increase their participation in civic, economic and social life.

NMWAG comprises a group of women who are in positions of leadership or are working with the communities. They will act as role models and represent the views and concerns of grass-roots Muslim women.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has an allocation of £70 million over the next three years for preventing extremism. Of that, £45 million will be given to local authorities for community projects at local level and £25 million will be used to support a wide range of national initiatives on a range of issues including the women's advisory group. The exact allocation to the advisory group from this budget has not yet been decided. Actual running costs are expected to be minimal.

### Construction

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new commercial and public-sector developments measuring over 1,000 square metres were built in the UK in 2006. [167411]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information is not available in the precise form requested. Information from the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) shows that there were around 1,140 retail properties, offices (including offices for public sector use), factories and warehouses built in England and Wales in 2005 that measured over 1,000 square metres. Certain public-sector properties such as schools and hospitals are not included in information provided by the VOA and are therefore excluded from the figure. The figure of 1,140 includes properties that were significantly extended in 2005 (where the floor space was more than doubled), as well as newly built properties. Information on properties built in 2006 will not be available until February 2008.

Information from the VOA covers England and Wales only. Information on developments in Scotland and Northern Ireland would need to be requested from the respective administrations.

### Council Housing: Energy

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department provides for local authorities on sustainable ways of replacing windows in local authority-owned homes, with particular reference to the policy of Birmingham city council of replacing windows with UPVC double-glazed units. [168653]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Local authorities are responsible for investment decisions relating to their own stock. We have not issued guidance on sustainable ways of replacing windows in local authority-owned homes.

### Crime Prevention

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the members are of the ministerial group to which the cross-departmental review on how best to engage communities in the fight against crime has been referred. [167121]

**Edward Miliband:** I have been asked to reply.

The ministerial group comprises the Home Secretary (Chair), the Secretary of State for Justice, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Attorney-General and the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163611]

**Hazel Blears:** The most recent information can be found on the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/pdf/public_bodies/publicbodies2006.pdf

We are currently collating information to 31 March 2007, which will be published on my Department's website in due course.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what opinion polls the Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164956]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The information is as follows:

Since 27 June,

*(a)* there are ongoing surveys and research on homebuying reform. Work undertaken to date by GfK cost 40,000 plus VAT;

*(b)* the Human Resources Directorate conducted the second of four quarterly staff surveys. This was undertaken by Ipsos Mori at a cost of 37,000 plus VAT and measured staff opinions on a range of internal management issues.

In addition, we conducted a pilot employee engagement survey of 400 staff at a cost of £11,000 including VAT. This was undertaken by Ipsos MORI and will help the Department to assess the level of employee engagement and identify the key drivers which would increase engagement levels.

### Homelessness: Expenditure

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent in the *(a)* Wakefield and *(b)* Hemsworth constituencies on homelessness by (i) central Government and (ii) local authorities in each of the last five years. [165143]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Since 2003-04, the majority of the Government's homelessness grants have been allocated to local authorities to support them in their work on tackling and preventing homelessness effectively. Before that, the majority of funding went directly to the voluntary sector. We do however continue to provide homelessness funding directly to some voluntary sectors, where appropriate.

All local authority homelessness grants are allocated to individual councils and not constituency areas. It would be the responsibility of the local authority to spend this grant as it saw fit to tackle homelessness in its area.

The following table contains the level of revenue funding allocated to Wakefield metropolitan district council over the last five years in respect of homelessness.

*Homelessness funding—Wakefield*

| | *Revenue funding allocated (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 38,713 |
| 2004-05 | 38,000 |
| 2005-06 | 38,000 |
| 2006-07 | 72,000 |
| 2007-08 | 143,000 |

This year, we will also be providing Wakefield metropolitan district council with £20,000 under our Hostels Capital Improvement Programme for improvements to Castledene hostel.

### Housing

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has made of the likely effect on energy efficiency standards of proposed changes to grant levels for private sector housing renewal; and what discussions she has had with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on this matter; [167884]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the Department of Health on her Department's new proposals for private-sector housing renewal. [167883]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** There are no new proposals for private-sector housing renewal policy. ODPM circular 05/2003 "Housing Renewal" includes advice on how local authorities should link their housing renewal policies with social care, health, fuel poverty and energy efficiency strategies. My Department has allocated £10.2 billion for regional housing funding for 2008-11 for housing capital programmes, including those which address the condition of private- sector housing stock.

No final decisions have been made on funding for private-sector housing renewal. We are currently considering advice from the regional assemblies on funding priorities for their areas.

### Housing: Construction

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure the availability of *(a)* skills, *(b)* manpower and *(c)* materials to meet the target for building new homes; how she plans to ensure timely planning decisions are taken on those homes; and if she will make a statement. [165862]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Chapter 11 of our 'Homes for the Future' Green Paper set out how Government intend to build capacity to meet the skills and construction challenges in supporting housing growth, while also supporting local people's skills needs. Officials in my Department and the Departments for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), and for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), are working closely with the main built environment sector skills councils (SSCs) and other partners to take

forward these commitments to ensure that we have the skills needed to support our plans for housing growth. In addition we will consider the implications for skills of the Callcutt review of housebuilding delivery, and what if any further actions may be needed.

Chapter 2 of the Green Paper sets out how the planning system can support the goal of 240,000 new homes every year. Our White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" also made clear that increasing the supply of housing is a key outcome for planning.

**Housing: Digital Broadcasting**

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of properties *(a)* newly built and *(b)* refurbished under the housing market renewal pathfinder projects have been equipped with communal digital television systems. [168998]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Housing: Domestic Safety**

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many assessments were made in respect of *(a)* private and *(b)* social housing under the housing health and safety rating system in each local authority during 2006-07. [167570]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on housing duties in respect of households in properties in the *(a)* private, *(b)* registered social landlord and *(c)* local authority sectors which have been assessed as representing a category 1 hazard under the housing, health and safety rating system. [167582]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The document "Housing Act 2004 - Enforcement Guidance: Part 1 Housing Conditions" (published 26 May 2006) sets out the legal situation, and what the Department expects of local authorities enforcing the housing health and safety rating system (HHSRS).

With regards to local authority housing stock, local authorities, as landlords, also need to ensure that their homes meet the decent homes standard. A home cannot be classed as decent if one or more category 1 hazards are present. The document "A Decent Home: Definition and guidance for implementation" (published 7 June 2006) provides guidance on this.

**Housing: Overcrowding**

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will add to her Department's Public Service Agreement 20 performance indicators on *(a)* the number of families with children living in overcrowded housing and *(b)* the number of social rented homes to be built in 2008-09 and 2009-10. [163157]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government have no current plans to revise PSA20, which is focused on increasing long-term housing supply and affordability.

The number of affordable homes delivered each year over the CSR period, including the number of homes for social rent, will be measured by PSA20 indicator three: 'Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)'.

**Housing: Repairs and Maintenance**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what changes she plans to expenditure on private-sector housing renewal and repair; and if she will make a statement; [168176]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect of a change in grant support to private-sector housing renewal and repair; and if she will make a statement. [168177]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today to Questions 167883 and 167884.

**Housing: Standards**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend her housing strategy following the adoption of the Decent Homes Standard after 2010; and if she will make a statement. [162418]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In July my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing published the housing Green Paper "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable", which can be found at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/homesforfuture.

The housing Green Paper committed the Government to delivering 2 million homes by 2016 and 3 million homes by 2020 by raising supply over time towards the 240,000 per year target in 2016.

The growth by 2016 will include 100,000 new homes in 45 towns and cities that make up the 29 new growth points. We have committed ourselves to investing £1.7 billion for infrastructure in the growth areas over the next three years.

During this parliamentary session, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing has brought forward a Housing and Regeneration Bill. The Bill received its Second Reading in the House on 27 November. It will create the new Homes and Communities Agency, which will deliver more social and affordable housing, promote regeneration and facilitate the establishment of sustainable communities. The Agency will work with local authorities, housing associations and private developers to provide the housing and related infrastructure required. The Bill will also establish a new social housing regulator—the Office for Tenants and Social Landlords—which will drive up the quality of social housing provision by setting standards for housing associations, backed up by new intervention powers to secure improvements where landlords are failing.

We are also providing at least £8 billion over the next three years to invest in affordable housing—initially through the Housing Corporation and then through the new Homes and Communities Agency. This new

investment, which is an increase of 50 per cent. compared to the previous three years, will help to deliver 70,000 affordable homes a year by 2010-11, of which 45,000 will be for social rent. The Housing and Regeneration Bill will also make changes to the housing revenue account subsidy system to enable local authorities to keep rental income from new homes to incentivise them to build where it is shown to provide value for money.

Owing to the positive response from local authorities and developers following the Green Paper we have increased the number of ecotowns schemes to be provided by 2020 from five to 10. The entire community will be designed to reach zero carbon standards.

We have also announced around £1 billion for Housing Market Renewal pathfinder areas. The investment is aimed to continue to help develop practical solutions to address housing market weakness and tackle high vacancy rates, high population turnover, low demand for social rented housing and low sales value.

The Housing Green Paper reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring both councils and housing associations maintain their focus on improving the quality of their existing accommodation and delivering decent homes. We also committed ourselves to at least £2 billion investment in the Arm's Length Management Organisation programme over the next spending period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

We are also making some £10.2 billion available over the years 2008-11 through the regional housing pot. This is a very significant increase on the funding for the previous three years, which totalled some £7.8 billion. The funding will underpin our commitment to decent homes and to increasing the supply of affordable housing.

### Housing: Sustainable Development

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the basis was for the decision not to require new homes funded through the Housing Corporation from April 2008 to meet higher standard than Code Level 3 for Sustainable Homes. [168652]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Code Level 3 is already a very high standard and significantly beyond current Building Regulations for Energy/$CO_2$ emissions. For the Housing Corporation it will be a minimum requirement to build to Code Level 3 for the forthcoming 2008-11 Affordable Housing Programme. This ensures that Government-funded housing is leading the way in the drive towards sustainable housing. The energy requirements within Code Level 3 will become part of the Building Regulations in 2010.

### Injunctions

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many injunctions have been *(a)* sought and *(b)* obtained under sections 26 and 27 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. [167553]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Police and Justice Act 2006 amended measures which have been available since summer 2004. My Department has requested that local authorities provide data on the number of antisocial behaviour injunctions (ASBIs) they have obtained from 2006-07. Those data are not yet available.

The Housing Corporation has collected data from registered social landlords (RSLs) on the use of antisocial behaviour injunctions since 2005-06, in which 758 are reported as having been granted.

### Landlord and Tenant: Digital Broadcasting

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role she plans for the proposed new Office for Tenants and Social Landlords in *(a)* supporting access by tenants to digital television receiving systems and *(b)* encouraging provision by landlords of communal digital television receiving systems for dwellings in multiple occupation. [168510]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The recently introduced Housing and Regeneration Bill will create OFTENANT, the Office for Tenants and Social Landlords. It is too early to provide details on how it might support the successful delivery of the digital switchover programme in advance of its establishment. This will be a matter for the regulator once it is established, taking into account its remit of improving core housing services for tenants.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to encourage social landlords and local authority housing providers to upgrade communal television systems in advance of digital switchover. [168513]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Responsibility for upgrading communal television systems is a matter for landlords in consultation with tenants. Digital UK is responsible for communicating with landlords and property managers in order to increase awareness and understanding of what they need to do to prepare for switchover.

The Department continues to co-operate closely with the Department for Media, Culture and Sport, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Digital UK in working to deliver a successful switchover programme.

### Planning

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent meetings she or other Ministers in her Department have held with non-governmental organisations on planning reform; and what the outcome of such meetings was. [163859]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Ministers have met a wide range of non-governmental organisations on planning reform, principally as a result of the planning White Paper. The Government summary of responses to the consultation on the White Paper is available in the Library of the House.

### Planning: Renewable Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to allow local authorities to take green tariffs into account when considering the carbon footprint of new developments. [167076]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government are working with the public sector, business and voluntary organisations in assessing a number of options for solutions that will help to reduce the carbon emissions from new developments.

Green supply tariffs have a role to play in contributing to the achievement of the Government's climate change goals. As such, the Government are committed to working with Ofgem to ensure consumers have accessible, transparent and user-friendly information on the 'green electricity' tariffs available to them. Ofgem published a consultation paper on green tariffs "Cutting green customer confusion" on 21 November.

### Planning: Research

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by her Department was taken account of in reaching the decision on new homes in the current plan period; and if she will make a statement. [165045]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** In order to respond to the Barker review of housing supply, the Department commissioned the university of Reading to develop a theoretical affordability model that models the impact of different levels and regional distributions of housing supply on affordability. This research was published at the time of the Government's response to the Barker review in November 2005, and is available on the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publication/housing/affordabilitytargetsimplications.

Since then the university of Reading has continued to develop the model, and the Department will be publishing details of the latest version of this model in due course.

The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit (NHPAU) has recently published a response to the Government's housing Green Paper, which used this model to examine a range of housebuilding scenarios.

In addition to the research outlined above, a range of other evidence and analysis was used as part of the decision-making process underlying the housing Green Paper announcement that 3 million homes would be built by 2020. This included the official household projections produced by the Department and examination of housing supply data and the regional plans existing at that time.

### Railway Stations: Hampshire

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 785-6W, on railway stations in Hampshire, what the schedule is for including in the Railways for All programme those Hampshire railway stations which have not been announced for inclusion in the programme; and if she will make a statement. [168912]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department is currently drawing up the next list of stations to be targeted for investment under the Access for All Programme, and will make an announcement before the end of the year. Stations in Hampshire will be considered, alongside other stations not selected so far, for enhancement during the 2012 to 2015 period.

In addition, annual rounds of Access for All Small Schemes Funding will continue to support smaller scale enhancements, such as the low height ticket counters being installed at Havant, Southampton Central, Farnborough and Brockenhurst over the same period.

### Regional Planning and Development: Northamptonshire

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account was taken of the capacity of the A14 in setting housing development targets for north Northamptonshire; and if she will make a statement. [168507]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy (MKSM SRS) sets out the district level housing targets for North Northamptonshire. At the Examination in Public the Highways Agency accepted that possible capacity constraints on the A14 would need to be investigated further.

Since then, the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit has been developing a core strategy which is currently at the Examination in Public stage, and has worked closely with the Highways Agency, which has been carrying out studies to look at online improvements and options for the potential widening of parts of the A14. The Highways Agency has presented information to the Examination in Public to show improvements that can be made to the A14 to meet the anticipated housing trajectory.

### Regional Planning and Development: South West Region

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2138W, on Regional Planning and Development: South West Region, how much affordable housing she expects to be built in *(a)* Forest of Dean constituency and *(b)* Gloucestershire in the next five years. [166304]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** It is for each of the Gloucestershire Local Planning Authorities to determine both the need and the amount of affordable housing to be built in their areas, having regard to the planning guidance set out in PPS3 and the draft Regional Spatial Strategy. The Gloucestershire planning authorities are now preparing local development documents in which they will set an overall (i.e. plan-led) target for the amount of affordable housing to be provided in their areas.

### Religion: Publications

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what publications her Department and its predecessors have produced relating to faith communities since 1997. [168126]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Since 1997, 20 publications have been produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government and its main predecessor organisations which relate predominantly to faith communities. The 20 publications focusing entirely on faith issues are:

1. "Guidance on New Measures to Outlaw Discrimination on Grounds of Religion or Belief: (Part 2, Equality Act 2006)" Communities and Local Government, 2007.
2. "2005 citizenship survey: race and faith topic report" Communities and Local Government, 2006.
3. "Review of the Evidence Base on Faith Communities" Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2006.
4. "Incitement to religious hatred" Home Office, 2006.
5. "Working Together: Co-operation between Government and Faith communities—Progress Report" Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2005.
6. "Ministers of Religion from abroad: second stage consultation" Home Office, 2005.
7. "Community Cohesion Pathfinder Programme" Faith and Cohesion Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2004.
8. "Working Together: Co-operation between Government and Faith Communities" 03m Faith Communities Unit Home Office, 2004.
9. "Religion in England and Wales: findings from the 2001 Home Office Citizenship Survey" Home Office Research Study 274 Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, 2004.
10. "Tackling Religious Discrimination: practical implications for policy makers and legislators" Home Office Research Study 221 Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, 2001.
11. "Religious Discrimination in England and Wales" Home Office Research Study 220 Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, 2001.
12. "Information about Ministers of Religion" Immigration and Nationality Directorate ISBN 1858935083 Home Office, 2001.
13. "Transport requirements of minority ethnic and faith communities: research findings" Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions, 2002.
14. "A forum for faith communities and government" Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, 2001.
15. "Faith, communities and social work: shifting identities and changing realities" Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, 1999.
16. "The local inter faith guide: faith community co-operation in action" Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions in association with the Inter Faith Network for the UK, 1999.
17. "Faith, communities and social work: shifting identities and changing realities: symposium report" Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, 1999.
18. "Involving communities in urban and rural regeneration: a guide for practitioners" (includes specific section on faith communities) Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, 1997.
19. "Challenging religious discrimination: a guide for faith communities and their advisers" Department of Environment, 1997.
20. "Faith interaction: Inner Cities Religious Council newsletter" Department of Environment, 1993-98.

### Rented Housing: Finance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons private-sector housing renewal and grant support to those living in that sector are not included in the public service agreements for her Department. [167882]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Progress to increase the proportion of vulnerable households living in decent homes in the private-sector to 70 per cent. by 2010 is ahead of target. Progress on private-sector renewal remains important work for my Department and will contribute to our departmental strategic objectives. We will continue to monitor progress through the English House Condition Survey.

Local authorities' duties and responsibilities remain unchanged. Many services and activities undertaken by local government, alone or in partnership, are not directly reflected in the national indicator set but will continue to be important to local areas and the people they serve. We expect local authorities to continue to set priorities, determine performance indicators and monitor and review performance.

### Rented Housing: Standards

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many landlords have signed up to the Respect Standard for Housing Management. [167549]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** As of 31 October 2007, 374 social landlords have signed up to the Respect Standard. We estimate that this constitutes 68 per cent. of landlords and 5.5 million social housing tenants.

### Social Rented Housing: Rents

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who is responsible for setting the upper limit of social housing rent which each local authority is authorised to charge; how that upper limit is calculated; and if she will make a statement. [165544]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Rent-setting powers of local authorities are set out in section 24 of the Housing Act 1985. Local authorities are free to set whatever rents they consider reasonable. Government have no rent-setting powers.

When setting rents, local authorities will have regard to the 'guideline rent' for their authority. This is the notional rent that operates inside the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy system and is used to calculate the assumed rental income for the authority, that calculation forming part of the authority's overall entitlement to HRA subsidy. Each authority has its own guideline rent.

Local authorities will also have regard to the 'limit rent' for their authority. This is the maximum level to which the Department for Work and Pensions will pay housing benefit on the dwellings in that authority.

Guideline and limit rent is calculated using a formula that takes a number of factors into account, including the type and location of the housing authority's

dwellings, local factors such as manual worker salaries in the county the authority is in, and national factors such as inflation.

### Tuberculosis: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many cases of tuberculosis there were in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Leeds, West constituency in each year since 1997. [168125]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

The number of reported tuberculosis cases in the Leeds local authority since 1997 is as follows.

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 75 |
| 1999 | 77 |
| 2000 | 67 |
| 2001 | 94 |
| 2002 | 107 |
| 2003 | 79 |
| 2004 | 113 |
| 2005 | 111 |
| 2006 | 152 |

*Note:*
There are no data on the number of cases occurring in the Leeds West constituency, as this information is not collected on a constituency basis.
*Source:*
Health Protection Agency enhanced tuberculosis surveillance system.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Cyprus

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the UK's role in Cyprus. [167727]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK has a unique role in Cyprus, as both countries are EU, UN and Commonwealth members, and the UK is one of the three guarantor powers for Cyprus. The UK has a strong bilateral relationship with Cyprus, a key trading partner. We maintain a structured dialogue and co-operate on a wide range of issues.

The UK is fully supportive of the UN's efforts to promote the reunification of Cyprus and we have lent our full support to the 8 July agreement between the two leaders. The UK works with its EU and UN partners to achieve this goal. In north Cyprus, we have supported the EU's efforts to bring the Turkish Cypriot community closer to Europe, facilitating the reunification of Cyprus through economic development.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage the reunification of Cyprus following the 2004 Annan plan. [167728]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** In 2004, the UN plan for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem was approved by the Turkish Cypriots, but rejected by the Greek Cypriots. The UK continues to support a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, established on the basis of political equality. We have fully supported the UN's efforts to restart settlement negotiations between the two communities on this basis, and have lent our full support to the 8 July agreement between the two leaders.

We engage fully with Turkey, Greece, the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leadership, encouraging them to play a full and positive part in the settlement process. During her last visit to the island, my right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan), the UK's recently appointed Special Representative for Cyprus, urged both communities to show the flexibility and political courage required to bridge the gap between words and deeds.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on trade with Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus. [167730]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The EU made a commitment in April 2004, reiterated in January 2007, "to end the isolation of Turkish Cypriots and facilitate the reunification of Cyprus" with "particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island and on improving contact between the two communities and with the EU". We fully support these objectives.

The EU wants direct trade with northern Cyprus and the Government have supported the attempts of successive EU presidencies to realise this goal. We believe that this would bring Turkish Cypriots closer to Europe, slow the economic integration of northern Cyprus with Turkey, promote economic integration within Cyprus and reduce economic disparities between the two communities, so facilitating a settlement.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Turkish troops situated in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [163217]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government estimate that there are between 20,000 and 30,000 Turkish troops in northern Cyprus. We believe that a reduction in the number of Turkish troops would help build trust on the island. A settlement would allow comprehensive demilitarisation of the island.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* processes for and *(b)* impact of commercial development in the buffer zone in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [163219]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The monitoring and control of development in the buffer zone is a matter for the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, whose mandate we strongly support.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the North Cyprus Property Commission's ability to *(a)* pay compensation for and *(b)* order restitution of Greek Cypriot property (i) promptly and (ii) in full. [163118]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made no assessment of the ability of the Immovable Property Commission to fulfil its functions. This matter is properly before the European Court of Human Rights.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of bicommunal activity in Cyprus sponsored or organised by *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the UN, *(c)* other countries, *(d)* the Republic of Cyprus, *(e)* Turkish Cypriots, *(f)* civil society in the Republic of Cyprus and *(g)* civil society in Northern Cyprus. [163218]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK supports a range of bicommunal activities. For example, we have provided financial support for the UN Commission on missing persons and have promoted bicommunal discussions highlighting the economic benefits of a solution. My right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield North (Joan Ryan), the UK Special Representative to Cyprus, met bicommunal civil society groups in October, during her visit to the island.

The bulk of the UN work on bicommunal activities is organised by Action for Co-operation and Trust in Cyprus (ACT). The ACT was created in October 2005 and has a total budget of US$26.5 million. It is managed directly by the UN Development programme. More information about the work of ACT can be found at:

http://www.undp-act.org/MAIN/default.aspx.

Notwithstanding these efforts, the UN Security Council noted in its last resolution on the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus mandate that the search for peace in Cyprus would benefit from more bicommunal activity.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress there has been in cross-green line co-operation between police services of the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriots; and if he will make a statement. [163131]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not aware of any co-operation between the police services of the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriots.

The technical committees envisaged under the 8 July 2006 agreement would provide a forum for discussion of those issues, such as crime, that would benefit from enhanced bicommunal co-operation. We continue to urge the rapid implementation of the 8 July agreement.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much of the EU's 259 million euros aid package to Turkish Cypriots *(a)* has been spent and *(b)* is contracted to be spent; what obstacles there are to the disbursement of the aid; and if he will make a statement. [163128]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The financial aid regulation is supporting practical projects designed to bring the Turkish Cypriot community closer to Europe. The European Commission's 2007 report on the Financial Aid Regulation, available at

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007_0536en01.pdf

provides a full account of implementation of the regulation. By October 2007, €61 million had been tendered for; total amount contracted reached €25 million; and a total of €8 million has now been spent.

Potential obstacles to effective implementation of the regulation cited in the report include: tight contracting deadlines, property issues, low absorption capacity, staffing of the programme team and lack of co-operation between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. The Commission is working hard to overcome these obstacles, delivering projects that promote reunification by bringing the Turkish Cypriots closer to Europe.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the euro circulating in the Republic of Cyprus on *(a)* the Turkish Cypriot economy and *(b)* Turkish Cypriot people and their savings; and if he will make a statement. [163126]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK has made no such assessment. As the application of the EU's acquis communitaire is suspended in those areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control, the euro will not be legal tender there. It will be the responsibility of the EU Commission to monitor the impact of the introduction of the euro. The UK continues to believe that bringing Turkish Cypriots closer to the EU will help to build economic links between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and will make a future settlement less costly to accommodate. The UK has promoted academic research and public debate on the role the single currency might play in promoting economic integration and reunification of the island.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the process of preparing conversion of the currency in the Republic of Cyprus to euros; and if he will make a statement. [163216]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK has not made any such assessment. Any such assessment would be the responsibility of the EU Commission. When the EU Council agreed on 10 July that Cyprus would be allowed to adopt the euro from 1 January 2008, it also encouraged Cyprus to continue with appropriate policies to ensure that it could make the most of the benefits of joining the euro, in particular on budgetary rigour, structural reform and maintaining the competitiveness of their economy.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made on opening new crossing points over the green line in Cyprus, apart from Ledra Street; and if he will make a statement. [163114]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** We strongly support the efforts of the UN to broker an agreement between the parties, which would permit the opening of the symbolic Ledra Street crossing, or other green line crossing points. That would constitute a significant confidence building measure. This message was reinforced in the resolution on Cyprus adopted by the UN Security Council on 15 June. Although there have been positive gestures by both sides, key issues remaining including the demarcation of the buffer zone at Ledra Street. We continue to believe that further crossing points should be opened on the basis of arrangements used at existing crossing points, and call upon all involved to extend their full co-operation to the UN.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* prospects for and *(b)* obstacles to opening a new green line crossing point at Ledra Street, Nicosia; and if he will make a statement. [163115]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today (UIN 163114).

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of levels of cross-green line crime in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [163130]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made no formal assessment of the level of cross-green line crime in Cyprus. However, we remain concerned that lack of co-operation between the two sides on criminal matters provides a hospitable environment for organised criminal groups. The technical committees envisaged under the 8 July 2006 agreement would provide a forum for discussion of this issue. We continue to urge the rapid implementation of the 8 July agreement.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the UK stopped providing data to the Republic of Cyprus authorities about movements of people from the North of Cyprus through the Sovereign Base Areas checkpoints; for what reason this stopped; and if he will make a statement. [163214]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) provide all information at their disposal on the movement of people to the Republic of Cyprus. There is practical co-operation between SBA and Republic of Cyprus officials on a daily basis, and regular meetings take place between the SBAs, Republic of Cyprus and the European Commission where information on movement of persons and goods is exchanged.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of Turkish Cypriots *(a)* resident in the south of Cyprus and *(b)* visiting the south on a daily basis for work; and if he will make a statement. [163215]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government have not estimated the number of Turkish Cypriots who reside and work in the Republic of Cyprus.

In the period 1 May 2006 to 31 April 2007, according to the EU Commission report on the Green Line Regulation, 1,348,215 Turkish Cypriots crossed from the northern part of Cyprus to the Government-controlled area. This was broken down as 812,756 in the first six months and 535,459 in the second.

We regret any reduction in contacts between the two communities. We believe that increased people-to-people contacts, and trade between the two communities and the rest of the EU, can make an important contribution to solving the Cyprus problem.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made with the missing persons initiative in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [163111]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** We welcome the progress of the Committee on Missing Persons since it launched its project on the Exhumation, Identification and Return of Remains of Missing Persons in August 2006. The committee carries out important humanitarian work, identifying and returning the remains of those who lost their lives during this period. The remains of 28 missing persons were returned to their families in July this year. We hope that this process will promote reconciliation between the communities.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will make available to the UN Missing Persons Committee in Cyprus the information that they hold on atrocities which result in the deaths of Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots and foreign nationals between 1960 and 1974; and if he will make a statement. [163112]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Government records from this period deemed worthy of preservation are, with a few exceptions, housed at the National Archive where they are available to the public, free of charge. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently selects on average 40 per cent. of created files for preservation, of which less than 1 per cent. are closed or retained (unavailable to the public).

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the expected budget shortfall for the UN missing persons initiative in Cyprus is for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [163123]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Any budget shortfall, as well as the budget for 2008-09, is a matter for the UN in the first instance. The UK has donated a total of £82,000 to the committee, including a contribution of £10,000 in the current financial year. By this and other means, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has supported and encouraged the efforts of the Committee on Missing

Persons in Cyprus and the UN Mission in Cyprus to promote outside donor support for the important work of the committee, as well as continuing support from the parties in Cyprus.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial assistance the UK is giving to the UN missing persons initiative in Cyprus in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [163124]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to him today (UIN 163123).

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the British high commissioner for Cyprus last visited Rizokarpasso in northern Cyprus; what assessment he made of the *(a)* number, *(b)* scale and *(c)* reasons given for demolition of Greek Cypriot homes; what representations he made to the Turkish Cypriots; and if he will make a statement. [163110]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Our high commissioner in Nicosia last visited the Greek Cypriot community in Karpas on 22 June 2007 as part of a regular pattern of visits, which supplement the United Nations' humanitarian and monitoring activity. The issue of the demolition of Greek Cypriot homes was specifically discussed during this visit and subsequently with the Turkish Cypriot leadership. Our high commission in Nicosia continues to urge the Turkish Cypriot leadership to respect the property rights of the enclaved Greek Cypriot communities.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the statement by President Gul in Northern Cyprus that the island consists of two states, two peoples and two religions; what his policy on this matter is; and if he will make a statement. [163117]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Turkey has frequently expressed its support for a settlement in Cyprus on the basis of political equality and a bizonal, bicommunal federation, negotiated through the good offices of the UN Secretary-General. Our contacts with the Turkish Government, both before and after President Gul's comments, suggest that it is still their objective.

The leaders of the two communities in Cyprus reached agreement on 8 July 2006 on steps designed to lead to a resumption of settlement negotiations. That agreement, which has the full support of the UK, the UN Security Council and the international community, has yet to be implemented. During his recent meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister underlined the importance of all parties seizing the opportunity for progress next year.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* Famagusta and *(b)* Kyrenia meet the requirements of the 2004 International Ship and Port Facility Security Code; and if he will make a statement. [163213]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government have not formally assessed whether the ports of Famagusta and Kyrenia meet the requirements of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code. The port facilities do not appear on the International Maritime Organisation's list of facilities with approved security plans.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on EU trade and shipping of the Turkish embargo on Cypriot and Cyprus-associated shipping; and if he will make a statement. [163121]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The European Commission is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the acquis by Turkey and for providing evidence-based impact assessments on the accession process. The UK has made no detailed assessment of the impact on EU trade and shipping of the Turkish embargo on Cypriot and Cyprus associated shipping. However, the opening of Turkish ports to Cypriot shipping would clearly have important economic benefits for the region as a whole. The interdependence that accompanies trade, both on the island and between Cyprus and Turkey, has an important role to play in reunifying the island.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to Turkey on its embargo on Cypriot shipping; and if he will make a statement. [163122]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government regularly raise with Turkey the importance of fulfilling its obligations to the EU. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister did so when he met the Turkish Prime Minister on 23 October. The European Commission's annual progress report on Turkey, published on 6 November—http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2007/nov/turkey_progress_reportts_en.pdf)—evaluates Turkey's implementation of its obligations, including those under the Ankara Agreement Protocol.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the *(a)* effectiveness of the bicommunal school in Limassol and *(b)* proposals for Turkish Cypriots resident in Limassol of a separate school for Turkish Cypriot children; and if he will make a statement. [163134]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK is aware that ideas for a separate school for Turkish Cypriot children in Limassol have been discussed by the two communities. This is a long-standing issue. We hope that these discussions can produce agreement on how Turkish Cypriot children in Limassol can best be educated.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to promote progress on the July 2006 Gambari Agreement in Cyprus; what assessment he has made of the obstacles to such progress; and if he will make a statement. [163133]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK fully supports the 8 July 2006 process. Time is not on the side of a settlement. Following his meeting with Prime Minister Erdogan in October, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear the importance of seizing the election free window of opportunity for progress towards a settlement in 2008. In addition, we continue to urge both sides to show the flexibility necessary for the technical committees and working groups envisaged under this agreement to begin work, and to prepare the ground for fully fledged settlement negotiations as soon as possible.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the rate of building on Greek Cypriot-owned land in northern Cyprus *(a)* before and *(b)* after the rejection of the Annan plan; and if he will make a statement. [163129]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government have not estimated the number of properties that have been built or which are under construction in northern Cyprus. However, property development in northern Cyprus has clearly accelerated since the rejection of the Annan plan, which has resulted in the building of large numbers of new properties. The Government are concerned at the scale of such construction on Greek Cypriot-owned land in northern Cyprus. Our high commission in Nicosia regularly raises the issue of property development with the Turkish Cypriot leadership. We believe that the difficult and complex issue of property is only likely to be fully resolved in the context of a comprehensive settlement, and we urge both sides to engage constructively with the United Nations to enable settlement negotiations to start as soon as possible.

In our contacts with the Turkish Cypriot leadership, we recognise the Turkish Cypriots' need for economic development in support of reunification. But we urge them to ensure that any property development which does take place does so in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and does not complicate an eventual solution.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the ability of the Turkish Cypriot economy to comply with standards required by the EU acquis communautaire; and if he will make a statement. [163127]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government have not made such an assessment. The history of the EU demonstrates the power of trade to promote economic prosperity and political reconciliation. The preliminary finding of the World Bank report from 2006 on the economy in northern Cyprus was that the external constraints on access to EU markets for the Turkish Cypriot community were one of the two biggest constraints to economic development in northern Cyprus. I endorse the conclusion that the long-term welfare of all Cypriots is in jeopardy if steps are not taken to ensure the convergence of living standards on the island. That is why we remain committed to supporting the Turkish Cypriots and the EU Commission in economic and regulatory reform, particularly through the aid regulation, and to supporting the EU presidency in its efforts to find a way for the Turkish Cypriots to trade directly with the EU.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the rate of migration from Turkey to the north of Cyprus *(a)* before and *(b)* after the rejection of the Annan plan; and if he will make a statement. [163132]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government do not have specific data concerning the rate of migration from Turkey to the north of Cyprus before and after the rejection of the Annan plan.

However, a Turkish Cypriot census in April 2006 indicated that roughly 40 per cent. of the population of northern Cyprus is of Turkish or Turkish-mixed origin. This figure includes temporary workers and students but excludes soldiers and their families.

### Pakistan: Politics and Government

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Pakistan. [169580]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Milton Keynes, South-West (Dr. Starkey) on 12 November, *Official Report*, column 41W.

I welcome General Musharraf's announcement that he will hold elections on 8 January and that he has stepped down as Chief of the Army. But I urge him to lift the state of emergency, restore constitutional order and create the conditions for free and fair elections. There must be a level playing field for all political parties. We hope that Pakistan will rapidly meet the conditions which will allow its full membership of the Commonwealth to be restored.

### Tibet: UN Resolutions

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to encourage the UN to give effect to UN Resolutions 1353 and 1723 on Tibet; and if he will make a statement. [168233]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* We have not made representations to the UN on UN Resolutions 1353 (1959) and 1723 (1961) on Tibet. We do, however, regularly raise our concerns on Tibet directly with the Chinese Government, including the need to respect and protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Tibetan people. We did this at the last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in London in February, and we continue to monitor the situation in Tibet closely.

### Turkey: Foreign Relations

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the strategic

partnership with Turkey on UK relations with *(a)* Greece and *(b)* Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [162758]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Republic of Cyprus and Greece have raised concerns and sought clarification about the strategic partnership document. We have reassured them that the UK remains fully committed to the reunification of the island and fully supportive of the 8 July 2006 process.

In my statement published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website on 31 October at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1193598399882

I emphasised in the strongest terms that there is no change to our policy on the non-recognition of the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and that the UK's priority is progress towards reunification, as envisaged by the 8 July Agreement. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, following his meeting with Foreign Minister Bakoyannis on 6 November, reiterated this position.

The concerns expressed by the Republic of Cyprus and Greece show that, while we share the same strategic objective of reunifying Cyprus, there are honestly held differences of opinion on how to achieve this. We continue to discuss all such differences of opinion.

Both the Republic of Cyprus and Greece share the UK's desire of Turkish accession to the EU. Greece and the UK continue to support the 8 July process towards achieving a unified Cyprus. The UK shares many vital interests with both countries, and its bilateral relations with both countries are, as ever, very important.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what basis negotiations with Turkey were conducted on the Strategic Partnership Agreement in relation to those parts of the agreement that relate to undertakings on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot community in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [162759]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK/Turkey Strategic Partnership (formerly UK/ Turkey Action Plan) is a formalised dialogue which has existed between the UK and Turkey since 2004. It draws together into one high-level bilateral document the breadth of co-operation across the two Governments on a wide range of issues including climate change, trade, security, EU membership and counter-terrorism. It includes a section reiterating long-standing commitments to bring the Turkish Cypriot community closer to Europe.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance *(a)* has been given and *(b)* is planned to be given to Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus authorities and universities in relation to their engagement with the Bologna process as referred to in the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [162769]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Officials in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in contact with Turkish Cypriot academics on how to raise Turkish Cypriot educational standards. These contacts have sought to promote an exchange of ideas between educational establishments on practical issues. The aim is to ensure that Turkish Cypriot universities are able to maintain standards comparable with those of the institutions that are members of the Bologna process.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultation was undertaken with leaders of the Turkish Cypriot community over the text of the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Turkey, in so far as it refers to Turkish Cypriots; and if he will make a statement. [162770]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today (UIN 162759).

Leaders of the Turkish Cypriot community were not consulted over the bilateral UK/Turkey Agreement.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action he plans to take to uphold the right to representation of Turkish Cypriots in the European Parliament as referred to in the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [162771]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Turkish Cypriots are European citizens. Our preferred means to enfranchise them would be a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem that enables them to elect representatives to the European Parliament in the normal way. We are making every possible effort to secure that outcome. In the absence of a settlement, we welcome interest shown by Turkish Cypriots in the European Parliament and by European parliamentarians in the Turkish Cypriot community—not least as oversight and encouragement of disbursement under the Aid Regulation by the Commission. It is for the Parliament to decide precisely what mechanisms to employ. But we will urge the Council to support any such initiatives, as complementing its own efforts to bring Turkish Cypriots closer to Europe, underlining what the two communities have in common, and to help reunify the island.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to promote direct *(a)* commercial, *(b)* economic, *(c)* political and *(d)* cultural contacts between the UK, EU and Turkish Cypriots, in accordance with the Strategic Partnership with Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [162773]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government fully support the EU's desire to end Turkish Cypriot isolation and facilitate the reunification of Cyprus. We believe that lifting the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots, and bringing them closer to the EU, will help to build economic and cultural links between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and will make a future settlement less costly to accommodate. Long-standing UK policy is to put market forces at the service of a settlement and promote people-to-people contacts at all times.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reference there is in the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Turkey to *(a)* building on Greek-Cypriot-owned land in Northern Cyprus, *(b)* migration from Turkey to Northern Cyprus, *(c)* the Turkish military presence in Cyprus, *(d)* implementation of the EU customs union agreement in Cyprus, *(e)* the UN process on Cyprus with particular reference to the 2006 Gambari agreement; and if he will make a statement. [162812]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Strategic Partnership reflects the breadth of co-operation between the UK and Turkish Governments. The agreement is not, however, designed to be an exhaustive reflection of our policy on Cyprus. The document emphasises our primary goal of a comprehensive and enduring Cyprus settlement, which would address many of the issues referred to. Our policy is to continue to support the 8 July Process, which I reiterated in my 31 October statement published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1193598399882.

The Government's position remains that Turkey must implement all its obligations to the EU, including those in relation to Cyprus, such as normalisation of relations and the implementation of the Ankara Agreement Protocol.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultations were held with Greece as a guarantor power, prior to the signing of the strategic partnership with Turkey on 23 October 2007, in relation to the provisions relating to Cyprus and Turkish Cypriots; and if he will make a statement. [162819]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today (UIN 162759).

No consultations were held with Greece prior to the signing of the Strategic Partnership with Turkey.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from *(a)* Greece and *(b)* the Republic of Cyprus over the Strategic Partnership Agreement of 23 October; and if he will make a statement. [162820]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today (UIN 162758).

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he made to Turkey over the military occupation of northern Cyprus when negotiating the Strategic Partnership Agreement of 23 October; and if he will make a statement. [162821]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK/Turkey Strategic Partnership Agreement focuses on the long-term strategic objectives between Turkey and the UK. Regarding the presence of Turkish troops in northern Cyprus, UK Ministers have called for a goodwill gesture from Turkey in the form of a troop reduction, in order to build trust on the island.

The question of how to provide security for both communities is a central issue that will need to be addressed in the course of negotiations to achieve a comprehensive settlement. This underlines the importance of the rapid implementation of the 8 July process, to prepare the ground for fully fledged settlement negotiations.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what treaty obligations govern negotiations and other discussions concerning Cyprus between the guarantor powers, with particular reference to bilateral negotiations between two guarantor powers without the participation of the third; and if he will make a statement. [162822]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Article IV of the Treaty of Guarantee provides that Greece, Turkey and the UK will consult together in the event of a breach of the treaty.

The UK/Turkey Strategic Partnership is intended to promote reunification of the island, which is the long-standing obligation of all three guarantor powers. The UK/Turkey Agreement does not change in any way our long-term policy on the Cyprus settlement question, which is unconditional support for the implementation of the UN's 8 July 2006 agreement. Therefore it was not necessary to consult with all guarantor powers concerning Cyprus.

## Venezuela

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 747W, on Venezuela, what assessment he has made of the *(a)* impartiality, *(b)* funding streams and *(c)* personnel involved in Transparency International in Venezuela. [168569]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* Globally, we consider Transparency International to be a professional and impartial organisation, doing important work. The UK is committed to combating international corruption. Like other Governments, we look at Transparency International's annual index with interest, as it raises awareness of the continued need to combat corruption both here and overseas.

We work with Governments and civil society organisations such as Transparency International on projects to combat corruption, including in Venezuela. When I discussed corruption with the Venezuelan ambassador on 26 November, I took note of his concerns about Transparency International in Venezuela. We agreed that efforts to combat the problem of corruption in Venezuela were welcome and would continue to receive the UK's support.

### Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [168543]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer that the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) gave to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone) on 20 November, *Official Report*, columns 1093-1094.

## HEALTH

### Autism

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the ability of local authorities to meet the needs of people with autism; [168509]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that local authority commissioners *(a)* demonstrate their plans to provide services to people with autism and *(b)* provide adequate resources to implement those plans; [168517]

(3) what assessment he has made of the ability of the service plans of local authority commissioners to meet the needs of people with autism; and if he will make a statement. [168518]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** We have not made any assessment of the ability of local authorities or the ability of the service plans of local authority commissioners to meet the needs of people with autism. It is for local authorities to manage their priorities and decide how resources should be attributed, taking into consideration locally identified needs and assessments of individuals.

As stated in the guidance on eligibility criteria for adult social care, councils have to commission services to meet the needs of people who meet the criteria under "Fair Access to Care Services—Guidance on eligibility criteria for adult social care". A copy is available in the Library. If there are gaps in services, they should be filled. For 2007-08, the Government have provided £12.5 billion for local councils in respect of adult personal social services.

In addition, "Better services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder: A note clarifying current Government policy and describing good practice" was published on 16 November 2006. It clarifies the nature and intent of existing Government policy as it relates to adults with an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). A copy is available in the Library.

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he issues to local authorities on support for adults with an autism spectrum disorder. [169622]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** 'Better services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder: A note clarifying current Government policy and describing good practice' was published on 16 November 2006. It clarifies the nature and intent of existing Government policy as it relates to adults with an autistic spectrum disorder. A copy is available in the Library.

### Care Homes: Food

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average daily cost to the public purse was of food for each publicly funded patient in a nursing home in the most recent period for which figures are available. [168203]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Following the nutrition summits I held in March and July this year, the Department launched the Nutrition Action Plan on 30 October to tackle a wide range of issues and barriers to improving nutrition and nutritional care.

### Childbirth

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of births which did not require *(a)* medical and *(b)* significant midwifery intervention in each year since 1977; and if he will make a statement. [165442]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is not available for all births in the years requested. "NHS Maternity Statistics" were first collected in 1989-90 and include the requested information for births in national health service hospitals only. The latest available data is for 2005-06. This information is available in the Library.

### Consent to Medical Treatment

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 820W, on consent to medical treatment, which primary care trusts have put in place procedures for implementing the Mental Capacity Act 2005. [169471]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Resources for the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act were made available to the national health service and to local authorities separately. In addition local authorities were asked to take the lead in creating local implementation networks where all local stakeholders—health, social care, voluntary and private organisations—met and planned the local implementation and the local training to be made available. We expected all primary care trusts to participate in these networks, and have no information to suggest that they have not done so.

### Cumbria

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to move any of its offices to the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166565]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department has no plans to move any of its offices to the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

## Dental Services

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that patients are informed of their entitlement to treatment by an NHS dentist. [165279]

**Ann Keen:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for ensuring that their local residents and people seeking services within their area are aware of the range of national health service services available. NHS dental services are a mainstream NHS service. Any United Kingdom resident (or visiting European Union resident under reciprocal arrangements) who is eligible for NHS care is therefore eligible for NHS dental services. PCTs' methods of promoting NHS dental services range from leaflets to targeted local advertising campaigns. Most also run dental helplines providing advice on how to access services locally. The location and other details of NHS dental practices can be accessed nationally via NHS Direct and NHS Choices or from the local PCT, often through Patient Advisory and Liaison Services.

The Department works with the local NHS continually to improve patient communication. Improving the range and depth of information available via NHS Choices (previously NHS.UK) is one part of this ongoing work. The NHS Choices website is currently being enhanced to include a central contact number for each PCT through which potential patients can access information about the availability of services in their chosen area, in addition to the existing dental query helpline and out of hours contact numbers. We expect this improvement to the existing service to be available later this year, and further improvements will follow next year. The site can be accessed at:

www.nhs.uk/Pages/homepage.aspx

For those unable to access the information in this way, the information is more widely accessible through computerised information systems in libraries and other communal places. It is also anticipated that PCTs will continue to promote the availability of and entitlement to services in more traditional ways, using literature placed in other primary care premises such as general practices and pharmacies, in libraries, and in Yellow Pages wherever possible.

## Dental Services: Attendance

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many missed dental appointments there were in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [165280]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not held centrally, and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

## Dental Services: Cumbria

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices are operating in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland. [163013]

**Ann Keen:** The NHS Business Services Authority's dental services division can provide validated information on the number of NHS dental practices only at disproportionate cost.

## Dentistry: Student Numbers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many students *(a)* started and *(b)* graduated from dentistry courses in England in each year since 1997. [165281]

**Ann Keen:** Information for 'home fee' students is provided in the following table:

| *Academic year* | *Admissions* | *Dental graduates* |
|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 685 | 504 |
| 1997-98 | 631 | 542 |
| 1998-99 | 603 | 563 |
| 1999-2000 | 600 | 554 |
| 2000-01 | 623 | 591 |
| 2001-02 | 626 | 566 |
| 2002-03 | 665 | 524 |
| 2003-04 | 672 | 548 |
| 2004-05 | 674 | 565 |
| 2005-06 | 848 | 560 |

## Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policy costing guidance documents were in use within his Department prior to the development of the Department's policy costing handbook, aside from the Policy Appraisal and Health document dated November 2004. [165690]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Before the issuing of the Policy Costing Handbook no consolidated costing guidance documents were issued within the Department for policy branches. References to a range of other guidance which referred to costing had been provided through the Department's intranet, such as the Policy Appraisal and Health document, the Treasury's Green Book Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government, NHS Costing Manual (for national health service reference costs) and the annual publication by the Personal Social Services Research Unit, Unit Costs of Health and Social Care.

## Departmental Assets

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [164168]

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [164517]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following tables of assets in the ownership of the Secretary of State are planned to be sold during 2007-08 and are aggregated for the period 2008 to 2011 as sale dates cannot be confirmed.

The sale price has been given where a property has been sold. Where a property remains to be sold, the anticipated receipt is commercially confidential and therefore has not been provided.

*2007-08*

| *Property* | *Description* | *Sale price (£000)* | *Asset value (£000)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hackney | Former hospital | — | 7,632 |
| 337-339 Hackney Road, Hackney | Offices | 1,430 | 600 |
| Land at Napsbury, St. Albans | Open land | — | 443 |
| 18 Paddington Green, London | Offices | 1,210 | 606 |
| St. James' Court, Balham | Residential | — | 2,214 |
| 332 High Road, Tottenham | Offices | — | 195 |
| Dog Kennel Wood, Maidstone | Woodland | — | 42 |
| Houses in Surrey | Residential | — | 2,343 |
| Eastry Hospital, Eastry | Former Hospital | 1,700 | 1,700 |
| 30 Paul Road, Bodmin | Residential | — | 143 |
| 35 Higher Kingston, Yeovil | Offices | — | 34 |
| 10 Woodside, Plymouth | Offices | — | 238 |
| 22-38 Princes Road, Redhill | Residential | — | 1,212 |
| St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington | Former hospital | 3,875 | 9,993 |
| 103 Oakwood Drive, Diversion | Residential | 129 | 131 |
| Sedgefield Hospital, Sedgefield | Former hospital | 3,268 | 3,067 |
| Agricultural land, Winterton | Open land | 105 | 105 |
| Willowburn, Maiden Law Hospital, Lanchester | Hospice | 185 | 191 |
| 112 Northbourne Road, Jarrow | Residential | 83 | 83 |
| 140 Hedworth Lane, Jarrow | Residential | 140 | 140 |
| 27 Willow Grange, Jarrow | Residential | 131 | 133 |
| Eagle Cottage, Jarrow | Residential | — | 461 |
| Land at South Elmsall, Wakefield | Open land | — | 105 |
| Land at Morton Banks, Keighley | Open land | — | 34 |
| 18 Battlefield Lane, Holbeach | Residential | 116 | 144 |
| Holbeach Hospital, Holbeach | Hospital | — | 617 |
| Warwick Cottage, Melton Mowbray | Residential | — | 116 |
| Land at Honey lane, Waltham Abbey | Open land | 72 | 76 |
| Part Little Plumstead Hospital, Norwich | Hospital | — | 6,324 |

*2008-09 to 2010-11*

| *Property* | *Description* | *Asset value* |
|---|---|---|
| 63/65 Bardsley Drive, Farnham | Residential | 379 |
| Part Park Prewett Hospital, Basingstoke | Various health related | 9,075 |
| Land at Woodside, Plymouth | Car park | 132 |
| Northern View, Bradford | Open land | 8,229 |
| Lakeview Close, Walsall | Health buildings | 2,803 |
| Land at Crone Hills Health Centre, West Bromwich | Land | 50 |
| Land at Wellington Hospital, Telford | Open land | 270 |
| Part Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Shrewsbury | Open land | [1] |
| Part Harperbury Hospital, Radlett | Hospital | [1] |
| Land at Harwich Hospital, Harwich | Open land | 823 |
| Harp Close Meadow, Sudbury | Open land | 377 |
| Primrose Lane, Huntington | Health buildings | 850 |
| Land at Victoria Hospital, Worksop | Open land | 470 |
| Horton House, Epsom | Residential | 706 |
| White Hart, Harrogate | Conference facility | 2,733 |
| Hazel Court, Battersea | Residential | 2,221 |
| Garratt Lane, Wandsworth | Retail | 268 |

[1] To be determined.

## Departmental Board

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the dates were of all meetings his Department's Departmental Board has held in 2007; and if he will place copies of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of each meeting in the Library. [162249]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A summary of proceedings from each scheduled meeting of the Departmental Board is published on the Department's website within three months of the meeting. The Board met on the following dates in 2007:

11 January

15 February

15 March
19 April
10 May
14 June
12 July
11 October
8 November

Proceedings available so far have been placed in the Library. Proceedings from the meetings in October and November will be placed in the Library in due course.

### Departmental Manpower

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants in his Department *(a)* transferred to other Government Departments and *(b)* left the civil service in each of the last five years. [162737]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey (Angela Eagle) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 203-07W.

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165110]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not hold age information on applicants or interviewees for temporary posts who are not appointed. We do not hold records on over-60s separately from those on over-50s. The following table presents the data available from existing records without disproportionate cost.

| *Age group* | *Applied* | *Interviewed* | *Appointed (to permanent posts)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Internal Recruitment* | | | |
| 30-39 | 104 | 72 | 20 |
| 40-49 | 102 | 73 | 12 |
| over 50 | 35 | 21 | 1 |
| *External Recruitment* | | | |
| 30-39 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| 40-49 | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| over 50 | 4 | 2 | 1 |

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the organisational chart for staff in his Department. [165695]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The current Department of Health organisational chart has been placed in the Library.

### Departmental Pay

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [165278]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The table presents the number of staff receiving bonuses, the proportion of staff receiving bonuses (as a percentage), the total amount of bonuses paid and the largest single payment made in each year since 2004-05. Information for 2007-08 is not yet available.

The Department changed its payroll provider in 2003-04. Information on performance bonus payments prior to 2004-05 is only available from individual payslips. To retrieve information for years prior to 2004-05 would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

| | *Number of staff receiving bonuses* | *Percentage of staff receiving bonuses* | *Total amount paid as bonuses (£)* | *Largest single payment (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 420 | 18 | 1,400,049 | 22,500 |
| 2005-06 | 581 | 24 | 1,252,140 | 30,000 |
| 2004-05 | 679 | 24 | 1,064,465 | 22,500 |

### Departmental Press

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on newspapers, magazines and periodical subscriptions in the last 12 months. [164521]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department's library service is responsible for central purchasing of newspapers, magazines and periodicals for library use and for retention by individual units. The Department spent £276,321 on newspapers, magazines and periodical subscriptions in the last 12 months.

### Departmental Standards

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he expects to publish his Department's 2007 autumn performance report. [163381]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In line with HM Treasury guidelines, the Department's autumn performance report will be published by 15 December. However, the exact publication date is still to be decided.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164871]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department of Health has not yet set a date for publication of its autumn performance report for 2007. However, it is our intention to publish it before the House rises for the Christmas recess.

### Departments: Consultants

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which management consultancies his Department has engaged in the last 12 months, broken down by departmental directorate; and which such companies also work *(a)* as and *(b)* for providers to the NHS. [164617]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department does not collect information on contracts with management consultants in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such information for the Department.

### Doctors and Dentists Review Body

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to paragraph 3.6 on page 20 of his Department's evidence to the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, how many voluntary redundancies there were over the same period, broken down into clinical and non-clinical redundancies. [163387]

**Ann Keen:** For the period between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007 there were 993 voluntary redundancies. Of these 812 (82 per cent.) were clinical and 181 (18 per cent.) were non-clinical. Only eight (0.08 per cent.) were medical voluntary redundancies.

The comparative figures for the voluntary redundancies against paragraph 3.6 are shown in the following table. These are cumulative year-to-date figures.

| *Month* | *Clinical* | *Non-clinical* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *2006* | | | |
| September | 87 | 301 | 388 |
| October | 117 | 368 | 485 |
| November | 124 | 530 | 654 |
| December | 139 | 609 | 748 |
| *2007* | | | |
| January | 160 | 663 | 823 |
| February | 175 | 712 | 887 |
| March | 181 | 812 | 993 |

### Doctors: Housing

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when decisions on changes to the arrangements for accommodation for junior doctors were made. [164573]

**Ann Keen:** The arrangements for accommodation of junior doctors changed as a result of changes in training for doctors in foundation year 1, brought about through modernising medical careers. The change means there is no longer a need for these doctors to be resident on hospital sites.

Changes to the Medical Act 1983 were made following consultation, which ended in January 2006. The Department consulted extensively on the changes to the Act between 1 October 2005 and 31 January 2006 and the legislation went through Parliament in July 2006. We have implemented the provisions at the first opportunity.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Medical Act 1983 (Approved Medical Practices and Conditions of Residence) Regulations 2005 (S.I., 2005, No. 2413) applies to foundation year *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 junior doctors. [164582]

**Ann Keen:** The Medical Act 1983 (Approved Medical Practices and Conditions of Residence) Regulations 2005 lapsed from 1 August 2007. Therefore, the 2005 Regulations are no longer in force.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has given to NHS trusts on charging junior doctors for hospital-owned accommodation. [164583]

**Ann Keen:** Guidance already exists within the terms and conditions of employment for junior doctors on the application of charges for accommodation provided through hospital channels. It was not considered necessary to issue further guidance for doctors already covered by existing contractual provisions as the change to the Medical Act did not alter their situation in respect of tax or rental charges.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation he has had with junior doctors on the removal of the statutory responsibility of trusts to require junior doctors to reside on site. [164587]

**Ann Keen:** The Medical Act 1983 made it a requirement of provisional registration with the General Medical Council for junior doctors to live in accommodation supplied by the hospital or conveniently nearby to where he was employed. The Department held meetings on the provision of accommodation with the Junior Doctors Committee in March 2004, August 2004 and March 2005 prior to the consultation on the changes to the law between October 2005 and January 2006.

### Emergency Calls: Ambulance Services

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time taken to respond to an emergency telephone call by the ambulance service was in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166941]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

The ambulance response time data that are collected, and which include the number of emergency calls received by ambulance trusts across England and their performances against the targets set, are published annually. The latest statistical bulletin, 'Ambulance Services, England, 2006-07' was published in June 2007. A copy is available in the Library.

### Eyesight: Testing

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 years have received free NHS eye tests in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in the last five years. [163016]

**Ann Keen:** Information on children aged 15 or under receiving free national health service sight tests will be available at primary care trust level in the publication 'General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales: April to September 2007'. This will be published by March 2008.

### General Practitioners: Private Sector

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent of private companies' co-operation with general practitioners on service configuration. [169196]

**Ann Keen:** None. Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

**Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the engagement of general practitioners in private healthcare facilities; and if he will make a statement. [169197]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** It is a personal matter for general practitioners and private providers of healthcare facilities to determine their contractual arrangements in delivery of non-national health service services.

### Health Services: Foreigners

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the amount spent by the NHS each year on providing NHS outpatient care for non-EU citizens. [168135]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is not possible to provide the information requested. Successive Governments have not required the national health service to provide statistics on the number of foreign nationals seen, treated or charged under the provisions of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, nor any costs involved.

### Health Services: Immigrants

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* health and *(b)* financial impact assessments he has made of charging refused asylum seekers or other undocumented migrants for NHS care; and if he will make a statement. [167762]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Charging refused asylum seekers and other undocumented migrants for national health service hospital treatment has been in place for over 18 years. In conjunction with the Home Office, the Department is currently reviewing access by foreign nationals to NHS healthcare. The review is looking at a range of asylum and immigration issues as well as public health and humanitarian concerns.

Charging overseas visitors for hospital treatment is not merely about the protection of scarce NHS resources. Equally important is the protection of the principle that the NHS exists primarily for those people who are living on a legal and settled basis in the United Kingdom, not those who are not.

### Hearing Impaired: Health Services

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are waiting for hearing tests in *(a)* England, *(b)* West Yorkshire, *(c)* Hemsworth constituency, *(d)* Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust and *(e)* Pontefract Primary Care Trust; what steps are being taken to reduce the numbers of people waiting; and if he will make a statement. [167920]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The available information is shown in the following table.

*Waits for audiology assessments in requested organisations—September 2007*

| *Organisation/area* | *Audiology assessments: total waiting* | *Audiology assessments: number waiting 6+ weeks* | *Audiology assessments: number waiting 13+ weeks* | *Audiology assessments: number waiting 26+ weeks* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Provider—Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 36 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Commissioner—Wakefield PCT | 32 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber SHA | 7,684 | 5,485 | 4,654 | 3,674 |
| England—Commissioner level | 91,349 | 59,415 | 42,542 | 30,384 |

*Notes:*
1. Only information on audiological assessments is collected. Audiology assessments include hearing tests, which cannot be separately identified.
2. Pontefract has no primary care trust (PCT) but is part of Wakefield PCT.

*Source:*
Diagnostic Monthly Monitoring (DM01)

As part of the process to address the challenges in audiology services the Department, working with key stakeholders, developed the national audiology framework, 'Improving Access to Audiology Services in England', which was published in March 2007. Since the publication of the framework a number of key steps have already been implemented; we have improved the data on audiology by collecting monthly data of all audiology assessments together with a quarterly census of waits for all diagnostic tests, including audiology. We are also currently piloting the collection of referral to treatment times for all direct access referrals into audiology. A good practice guide was published in June 2007 that includes model pathways for the delivery of care. An audiology advisory board has been created to support the implementation and to review progress on the key deliverables. Progress has been made on testing the new assess-and-fit technology which enables a hearing aid to be fitted on the same day as assessment. Work has also begun on the Audiology Transformation Project, which is aimed at ensuring the good practice guidance can be fully implemented and the potential gains in capacity realised.

The strategic health authorities have provided assurance that their activity plans for 2007-08 aim to deliver the six-week maximum wait for all diagnostic tests, including audiology assessments, by March 2008.

With regard to the local position, a new joint £3 million investment from Wakefield District PCT and Kirklees PCT has enabled the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust to cut the waiting times for digital hearing aid assessment to six weeks. The investment has been used to fund additional staff for extra clinics at the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Trust and also to offer further services in the community. This means that more patients are being seen, and are having their digital hearing aids fitted as soon as possible, with the majority of patients having aids fitted within 12 weeks.

## HIV Infection

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in the UK who had HIV *(a)* at the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the previous five years. [169515]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information available is shown in the table.

*Estimated number of adults (aged 15-59) living with HIV (both diagnosed and undiagnosed) in the UK between 2001 and 2006*

| | Estimate |
|---|---|
| 2006[1] | 69,400 |
| 2005 | 63,500 |
| 2004 | 58,300 |
| 2003[2] | 53,000 |
| 2002 | 49,500 |
| 2001 | 41,200 |

[1] From 2004 to 2006, estimates exclude individuals aged 15-59 living with HIV who were infected through blood, tissue or blood products (466 in 2006) or through mother-to-infant transmission (233 in 2006) because the proportion undiagnosed cannot be reliably estimated for these prevention groups. Numbers diagnosed include individuals with unknown exposure, allocated to each category according to the distribution of those with known exposure. These estimates (rounded to the nearest 100) with credible ranges were estimated using Multi-parameter Evidence Synthesis, in an extension of the method described in Goubar A et al. www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_and_sti/publications/cesaHPAreport.pdf.
This methodology combines data from a number of sources such as the "Annual survey of HIV-infected persons accessing care, Unlinked anonymous surveillance, NATSAL 2000, ICH National Study of HIV in Pregnancy and Childhood."
[2] From 2001 to 2003, no range is available for these estimates. Numbers diagnosed were adjusted for under-reporting and failure to access services. Numbers undiagnosed derived for England, Wales and Scotland using data from Natsal 2000 and the Unlinked Anonymous programme in an extension of the method previously described (Petruckevitch et al. "Genitourinary Medicine 1997; 73:348-54"). Numbers undiagnosed for Northern Ireland derived by using exposure specific factors. All cases infected through blood and blood products or tissue were assumed to be diagnosed.
[3] Published estimates prior to 2005 only include persons aged 15-59. The methodology for calculating these estimates changed between 2003 and 2004 (although the key data sources were the same).
*Source:*
Health Protection Agency

## HIV Infection: Death

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the UK died from AIDS in each of the last five years; and how many in each year were under the age of 25. [169517]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information available is shown in the following table.

*Number of deaths among HIV-infected individuals in the United Kingdom 2002-06 by year of death and age at death[1]*

| Age at death | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| < 25 years | 13 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 18 |
| > 25 years | 507 | 560 | 484 | 531 | 479 |
| Total | 520 | 572 | 496 | 539 | 497 |

[1] Includes all deaths in HIV-infected as it is presently not possible to assign deaths by primary cause and an individual may have several causes of death which can be difficult to interpret.
*Notes:*
1. Data in the table include reports received by the end of June 2007. Numbers will rise as further reports are received.
2. Deaths are reported by region of death; the individual may have been infected and diagnosed with HIV elsewhere in the UK or abroad. Region of death is not reported in all cases.
*Source:*
Health Protection Agency.

## HIV Infection: Young People

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the UK under the age of 25 were diagnosed with HIV in each of the last five years. [169518]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

*HIV diagnoses in the United Kingdom among individuals aged less than 25 years at diagnosis, by year of HIV diagnosis*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 796 |
| 2003 | 965 |
| 2004 | 1,019 |

*HIV diagnoses in the United Kingdom among individuals aged less than 25 years at diagnosis, by year of HIV diagnosis*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 1,006 |
| 2006[1] | 860 |

[1] Cumulative data reported by the end of June 2007. Numbers will rise as further reports are received.

*Note:*
The data includes many individuals who have been infected with HIV outside the UK but who have been subsequently diagnosed in the UK.

*Source:*
Health Protection Agency.

**Home Visits: Subsistence Allowances**

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what year the 40p per mile payment was introduced for NHS clinical staff who use their own cars for patient visits; and if he will increase this payment. [169522]

**Ann Keen:** The current mileage allowances for national health service staff employed on national conditions of service including the 40p per mile were introduced in July 2000.

The rates are set by the NHS Staff Council.

**Hospitals: Cleaning Services**

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made on plans to deep-clean hospitals. [163015]

**Ann Keen:** As the Prime Minister announced in September, deep cleaning will occur in all hospitals, starting this winter, with resources allocated through the strategic health authorities (SHAs).

A letter from the Chief Nursing Officer and Director General of National Health Service Finance, Performance and Operations was sent to the NHS on 1 November giving instructions on the various measures targeting healthcare-associated infections, including deep cleaning.

Each trust's deep-clean plan will vary according to local need. Trusts will agree costed deep-clean plans with their lead commissioners and SHA, who will monitor performance against this plan, as per normal performance management arrangements. Foundation trusts will also be invited to agree plans and funding for additional deep cleaning with local commissioners, together with local arrangements for checking the agreed work has been carried out. SHAs will take an overview as to progress across their area and will report to the Department.

I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 134WS.

**Hospitals: Food**

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average spending per meal on hospital food was in each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [162238]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is in the following table. Data was not collected before 2001-02.

| | Average amount spent per patient main meal (£) |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 2.19 |
| 2002-03 | 2.41 |
| 2003-04 | 2.37 |
| 2004-05 | 2.60 |
| 2005-06 | 2.65 |
| 2006-07 | 2.83 |

In-patients are expected to receive three main meals per day. The spend includes the cost of provisions and staff costs. The data are collected from the national health service. Since 2004-05 the data provided has not been collected on a mandatory basis and therefore will not be complete.

**Hospitals: Hygiene**

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of compulsory ward inspections on *(a)* hygiene standards and *(b)* infection rates in hospitals. [163405]

**Ann Keen:** The Healthcare Commission is currently carrying out spot checks of 120 trusts and, from next year, the commission will be undertaking annual specialist inspections of all acute trusts. It will be for the Healthcare Commission to decide how detailed an inspection is required in any individual case and inspections are likely to vary in depth, with the greatest focus being on those trusts giving rise to the greatest concern.

The Healthcare Commission has the power to issue improvement notices where it finds material failures to comply with the statutory code of practice for the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections, in order to ensure that such failings are remedied.

As these inspections will be in place, the Department considers that compulsory ward inspections would duplicate activity.

**Hospitals: Infectious Diseases**

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus*, *(b)* vancomycin-intermediate *staphylococcus aureus*, *(c)* *clostridium difficile*-associated diarrhoea, *(d)* vancomycin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus* and *(e)* glycopeptide-resistant enterococci were recorded in each hospital in England in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [163401]

**Ann Keen:** From April 2001 all national health service acute trusts in England were required to report all cases of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections under the mandatory surveillance scheme run by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). The latest data for each trust for the quarter from April to June 2007 and for each 12 month period from April 2001 to March 2007 are available (table 3 and table 5 respectively) at

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm

Data are not collected for vancomycin-intermediates *Staphylococcus aureus* or vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* under the mandatory surveillance scheme. However, the Staphylococcal Reference and Antibiotic Resistance Monitoring Laboratory (ARMRL), the national reference laboratory responsible for the detection and investigation of antibiotic resistance, has screened over 50,000 MRSA isolates for resistance to vancomycin in the past 10 years. Of these, the ARMRL has confirmed two isolates of vancomycin-intermediate *Staphylococcus aureus*. The ARMRL has not confirmed any isolates of vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Information is also available by acute NHS trust for England for *Clostridium difficile* infection under the mandatory surveillance scheme from January 2004 in people aged 65 years and over. The latest data for the first two quarters of 2007 and data for 2004, 2005 and 2006 are available at (table 1 and table 2 respectively)

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm

The HPA also collects acute trust data on Glycopeptide-resistant enterococci blood stream infections in England from October 2003. Data for each 12 month period from October 2003 to September 2006 were published in July 2007 at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/enterococci/mandatory_surveillance.htm

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of hospital-acquired infections of the widespread introduction of subcontracting in hospital cleaning; and if he will make a statement. [164412]

**Ann Keen:** Mandatory surveillance of health care associated infections was not introduced until 2001 but prevalence surveys of health care associated infections were undertaken in 1980, 1993 and 2006. There has been little change in the prevalence of hospital acquired infections overall over the last 20 years.

The Conservative Government introduced compulsory competitive tendering in 1983, requiring the national health service to market-test domestic cleaning, catering, and linen and laundry services on a regular basis. This Government lifted that requirement in 2000, and trusts must now benchmark their services before deciding whether to market-test.

Current guidance on contracting for cleaning makes it clear that quality must be considered alongside cost in decisions on how to provide cleaning services. Recent information suggests that there is currently no difference between in-house and outsourced cleaning in terms of standards and outcomes.

### Immigration Status of Employees

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Prime Minister's answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 657-8, on the immigration status of employees, what steps his Department has taken to establish the immigration status of its employees since the Security Industry Authority wrote to employers in August on security checks. [166103]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We apply the baseline security checks, which include a nationality check, to all employees on entry to this Department; this forms part of our standard recruitment process and is applied to permanent, fixed-term and casual employees.

### Incontinence

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Under-Secretary of State for Health, the hon. Member for Brentford and Isleworth (Ann Keen) will meet the hon. Member for Nottingham North to discuss the issues relating to incontinence arising from the Westminster Hall debate on 24th October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 93-100WH. [163630]

**Ann Keen:** The Under-Secretary of State for Health has now arranged a meeting with my hon. Friend to discuss issues relating to incontinence on Wednesday 5 December.

### Influenza

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what quantity of influenza vaccine the Government's scientific advisers have recommended should be stockpiled; and what quantity of influenza vaccine has been stockpiled. [167409]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government have already stockpiled 3.3 million doses of H5N1 vaccine. The science underpinning the further development and potential use of pre-pandemic vaccine, including the range of options for the size of any future stockpile, has been reviewed by United Kingdom and other international experts. Their conclusions are available on the Department's website at

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/sagpf/minutes/sag-modelling-summary-nov2007.pdf

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the expenditure on the seasonal influenza immunisation programme, broken down by major cost area. [166383]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The major costs of the flu immunisation programme for England are estimated to be as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| Vaccine cost reimbursement | 54 |
| Item of service payment | 67 |
| Personal administration fee | 21 |

These estimates are based on last year's costs. The costs do not take into account any locally-funded initiatives, or incentives via the Quality Outcomes Framework.

### Malnutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of finished episodes of care with a primary diagnosis of *(a)* coronary heart disease, *(b)* stroke and transient ischaemic attack, *(c)* diabetes, *(d)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, *(e)* cancer, *(f)* dementia, *(g)* depression and *(h)* chronic

kidney disease had a secondary diagnosis of malnutrition or nutritional anaemias in each year since 1997-98. [164603]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows a count of finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis was either coronary heart disease, stroke and ischaemic attack, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, cancer, dementia, depression or chronic kidney disease and the proportion of these which also had a secondary diagnosis of malnutrition or nutritional anaemia, in each year since 1997-98 to 2005-06 (the latest data available).

*NHS hospitals, England*

| | *Finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis is either coronary heart disease, stroke and ischaemic attack, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, cancer, dementia, depression or chronic kidney disease.* | *Finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis is either coronary heart disease, stroke and ischaemic attack, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, cancer, dementia, depression or chronic kidney disease and the secondary diagnosis is malnutrition or nutritional anaemia.* | *Percentage of finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis is either coronary heart disease, stroke and ischaemic attack, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, cancer, dementia, depression or chronic kidney disease, that had a secondary diagnosis of either malnutrition or nutritional anaemia.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 2,234,947 | 18,552 | 0.83 |
| 2004-05 | 2,131,758 | 16,422 | 0.77 |
| 2003-04 | 2,076,479 | 14,640 | 0.71 |
| 2002-03 | 2,011,836 | 13,364 | 0.66 |
| 2001-02 | 1,947,016 | 11,445 | 0.59 |
| 2000-01 | 1,929,903 | 10,301 | 0.53 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,930,793 | 9,865 | 0.51 |
| 1998-99 | 1,834,918 | 9,740 | 0.53 |
| 1997-98 | 1,742,749 | 9,381 | 0.54 |

*Notes:*
1. *Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)*
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
2. *Secondary Diagnoses*
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
3. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
4. *Ungrossed Data*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
5. *Assessing growth through time*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the national health service there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

## Mentally Ill: Deaths

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths of patients have occurred in mental health institutions over the last five years. [163929]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* Information on the total number of in-patient deaths in national health service mental health accommodation in England from 2001-02 to 2005-06 is shown in the following table.

*Total number of in-patient deaths in NHS acute hospitals and other NHS accommodation in England from 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 2,970 |
| 2002-03 | 2,920 |
| 2003-04 | 2,660 |
| 2004-05 | 2,490 |
| 2005-06 | 1,980 |

*Notes:*
1. Data refer to all male and female deaths, for all age groups and from all causes.
2. Ungrossed data: the figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data.
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics, the Information Centre for health and social care

## Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the recent report by PricewaterhouseCoopers to his Department on the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust's financial position. [163391]

**Ann Keen:** The Department introduced a new working capital loans system in 2006-07. As a result, there were 17 NHS trusts that could not afford to meet the repayments within a reasonable timescale. Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust was one of these trusts.

As announced in our quarter 4 NHS financial performance report 2006-07, the Department, along with SHAs, is working through a review process with these trusts to identify long-term solutions in these areas.

PricewaterhouseCoopers was commissioned to carry out the review at Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust. The Department is considering this report, along with the reports relating to other trusts in the financially challenged trust regime, in relation to current policy formation and development.

With this in mind we are currently applying section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act to the report, as the information would be likely to inhibit free and frank provision of advice and the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberations.

The results of this review process are being discussed with the strategic health authorities and solutions are being prepared in the context of the operating framework for 2008-09.

### Midwives

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered midwives were not practising in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [165443]

**Ann Keen:** This information is not collected centrally. However, the annual work force census on 31 September 2006 showed there were 24,469 qualified midwives working in the NHS in England, an increase of 2,084 (9 per cent.) since 1997.

### Milton Keynes Hospital: Maternity Services

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives worked in Milton Keynes hospital in each month of the last three years. [168046]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: This is a matter for the chair of Milton Keynes Hospital National Health Service Foundation Trust. I have written to Mike Rowlands informing him of the hon. Member's inquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

### NHS: Complaints

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were made about services at each NHS trust in each of the last three years; and how many such cases resulted in litigation. [165276]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested has been placed in the Library. It details the number of written complaints about hospital and community services received by each individual national health services trust in 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07.

There is no direct causal link between cases of litigation and complaints, as it is possible to pursue litigation without first lodging a formal complaint; and aggregated information on litigation cases is held separately by the NHS Litigation Authority. There are therefore no data available on how many individual litigation cases begin as complaints. Data on number of litigation cases in 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 are set out in the following table.

| | *CNST* | *Existing Liability Scheme (ELS)* | *Ex-regional health authorities (Ex-RHAs)* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 5,273 | 329 | 7 | 5,609 |
| 2005-06 | 5,427 | 270 | 0 | 5,697 |
| 2006-07 | 5,280 | 146 | 0 | 5,426 |

*Note:*
CNST is for clinical negligence incidents from 1 April 1995, ELS for clinical negligence pre 1 April 1995, and Ex-RHA is for liabilities relating to the Ex-RHAs. The number of claims relates to the year a claim is made, not the year the incident occurred.

### NHS: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of the recovery plans agreed by strategic health authorities for all trusts that were in deficit at the end of 2006-07. [163369]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department manages the financial performance of the national health service through strategic health authorities (SHAs). National health service organisations that overspend are required to develop recovery plans to demonstrate how they will return to financial balance. Recovery plans are agreed and managed by SHAs, so the information requested is not held by the Department.

### NHS: Internet

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what patient involvement there has been in the design of the NHS Choices website. [166372]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** NHS Choices has carried out extensive engagement with patients, voluntary groups and professional bodies on the design of the NHS Choices website. This engagement is integral to the development of the site and will continue as NHS Choices evolves.

NHS Choices is a service aimed at all those interested in health information and services, including patients. An extensive programme of qualitative and quantitative user research and testing has been completed to inform the design of the service both pre and post launch. This type of research has informed, and will continue to inform, the evolution of the site's products and design.

Pre-launch (NHS Choices was launched in June 2007) a series of workshops were conducted with members of the public, general practitioners (GPs), health service workers, and voluntary and public-sector intermediaries designed to test the service vision. NHS Choices also carried out tactical 'scorecard' and 'naming' research among groups of C2DE internet users.

Post-launch, three learning forums have been used to test the live site, site propositions and design and content prototypes with groups of internet users drawn from all ages, genders and ethnic groups. Each session comprises of four groups, and lessons from these groups have been feeding into service development for subsequent releases.

A representative survey of general practices in England has also been conducted to benchmark awareness and usage of the site, provide a broad site evaluation and test various service propositions. In addition, qualitative research has been used with GPs to understand in greater detail their engagement as clinicians with the site, and again to test further developed service propositions.

To engage with national health service staff, 10 road shows have been conducted across the country. This engaged more than 500 NHS staff from trusts to primary care trust and practice managers.

Product development has also involved a high level of engagement. The site's new GP profiles are designed around a three-year research programme by Manchester university, a pilot by the National Programme for Information Technology and extensive negotiations with the British Medical Association, Royal College of the General Practitioners and other professional bodies. New services piloted across the country are also being evaluated with users, such as the qualitative research in Derby with young people to inform smoking cessation and physical health services.

Further qualitative research is planned with young mothers and with those with long-term health conditions and their carers to specifically test proposed products such as NHS LifeCheck and condition pathways. NHS Choices' customer insight team are also about to conduct an on-line survey with GPs to further test 'score-card' content and GP service engagement.

NHS Choices will soon be scheduling on-line surveys with public users (some with long-term health conditions) and continuing to provide qualitative or quantitative research to address product development needs. A nationwide survey of pharmacists will be conducted in the near future to benchmark their awareness and usage of the service as well as their broader evaluation of the service.

The Department is also carrying out a nationwide quantitative survey by the Central Office of Information and Market and Opinion Research International benchmarking usage awareness of the service among the public as well as health information and service behaviours via the internet.

NHS Choices has also worked with the Royal National Institute of Blind People to carry out an accessibility assessment on the site.

## NHS: Public Appointments

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used by the NHS Appointments Commission in evaluating the suitability of candidates for the position of chair of NHS hospital trusts. [164898]

**Ann Keen:** The Appointments Commission is directed by the Secretary of State for Health to appoint people to NHS boards with a range of skills and experience including those with a strong community service and/or voluntary sector background. Appointments are made on the overriding principle merit and in an open and transparent way. The current criteria used are as follows.

*Qualities required to be an NHS trust chair*

Candidates will need to demonstrate that they have the necessary experience, and will need to show that they have:

experience of leading an organisation with a significant budget and of comparable complexity;

a considerable reputation within their field whether public, private or voluntary sector;

a portfolio of high level governance and organisational skills including strategic planning, financial management, risk management, organisation performance management and service development in a regulated environment; and

experience of building alliances and working relationships with a range of stakeholders.

Preference will be given to candidates who live in the area served by the organisation but specific eligibility criteria may apply.

Candidates who are shortlisted for interview will need to show that they have the competencies required to be effective in this demanding leadership role. They are

Patient and community focus—high level of commitment to patients, carers and the community and to tackling health inequalities in disadvantaged groups;

Self belief and drive—the motivation to improve NHS performance and the confidence to take on challenges;

Intellectual flexibility—the ability to be creative, make sense of complexity and clarify it for other people;

Strategic direction—the ability to develop a clear vision and enthuse others;

Holding to account—the willingness to be held to account for board performance and the ability to hold the chief executive and non-executives to account;

Team working—the ability to take on a personal leadership role and build an effective team;

Effective influencing and communication—a high level of ability to gain support and influence, political acumen.

## Prescription Drugs: Side Effects

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in England *(a)* were admitted to hospital and *(b)* died because of a negative reaction to prescription drugs in each of the last three years. [167921]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme, the yellow card scheme. Approximately 20,000 reports of ADRs are reported to the MHRA/CHM through this scheme each year. The scheme collects ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom and includes all medicines, including those from prescriptions, over-the-counter or general retail sales. Reports are also received for herbal medicines and other unlicensed medicines.

The following table shows the number of UK suspected ADR reports received by the MHRA between 2004 and 2006 which have: had a fatal outcome; or resulted in or prolonged hospitalisation.

| *Year received by MHRA* | *Number of UK suspected ADR reports received which resulted in or prolonged hospitalisation* | *Number of UK suspected ADR reports received with a fatal outcome* | *Number of UK suspected ADR reports received which resulted in or prolonged hospitalisation and had a fatal outcome* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 4,429 | 861 | 222 |
| 2005 | 4,579 | 1,021 | 220 |
| 2006 | 4,635 | 964 | 203 |

It is not possible to estimate from the yellow card scheme the number of people who suffer adverse reactions to drugs since the scheme is associated with an unknown level of under-reporting. In addition, it is important to note that the submission of a suspected ADR report does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including temporal association, the possible contribution of concomitant medication and the underlying disease.

### Occupational Health: Private Sector

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to a private employer of a specialist nurse visit. [163869]

**Ann Keen:** No estimate has been made centrally. It is for local trusts to determine the cost of providing a national health service employee to a private employer.

### St Helier Hospital: Maternity Services

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on the provision of maternity services at St Helier hospital, Surrey in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [164055]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not held centrally by the Department. It is for the local national health service to decide on the provision of maternity services based on the needs of the local population.

### Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust: Bowel Cancer

**David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the national bowel cancer screening programme will be implemented in the Telford and Wrekin primary care trust area. [165190]

**Ann Keen:** The National Health Service bowel cancer screening programme is one of the first national bowel screening programmes in the world, and the first cancer screening programme in England to invite men as well as women. It is an ambitious project, with national roll-out of the programme expected by December 2009, with all people in the age range receiving an invitation by 2011. Implementation in the Telford and Wrekin area will occur on a phased basis from 2008-09. The provision of local health services is the responsibility of the local NHS organisations in conjunction with their strategic health authorities.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 551W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what progress has been made towards meeting the benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact. [168385]

**Mr. Malik:** The latest full reporting against all 43 benchmarks outlined in the Afghan Compact by the Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) took place on 1 May 2007 with JCMB V. The next full report against all benchmarks will be at JCMB VII, currently planned to be held on 6 February 2008 in Japan.

JCMB VI recently reported that of the 12 short-life benchmarks due to be completed before 2011, the majority have been achieved or are on schedule. Benchmark 1.4, Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups, was extended to March 2011 based on the presentation of a roadmap to it in line with the timeline for the development of security sector reform initiatives, including the development of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. Difficulties with achieving the following benchmarks were highlighted at JCMB VI: mine action (1.6), CSO baseline statistics (2.3.2), minerals regulations (3.4) and banking (8.4).

A full history and list of progress against all benchmarks can be found online at

www.ands.gov.af

### Basra Development Commission: Standards

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress the Basra Development Commission has made against its objectives since its launch; and if he will make a statement. [168339]

**Mr. Malik:** Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh met in Baghdad in October 2007 and agreed that the UK would help establish a development commission in Basra to promote private sector growth. The Basra Development Commission will provide the strategic advice and vision to help kick-start Basra's economy.

Since October, the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Basra has been working with the provincial council to develop the Commission's role and identify potential commissioners from Iraq, the region and internationally, including from the UK. It is expected that, following inauguration later this month, appointed officials and commissioners will develop detailed objectives and that the Commission will be fully functioning by March 2008.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many requests his Department received from the National Audit Office for access to databases containing personal information on members of the general public in each year since 1997. [168972]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what provisions his Department has in place to ensure that databases containing personal information on members of the general public are not accessed *(a)* by unauthorised staff and *(b)* by authorised staff for unauthorised purposes; [168980]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many breaches of data protection security there were in his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach; [168836]

(2) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168810]

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168473]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and Agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many times electronic databases in his Department containing personal information on members of the public were accessed in each month of each of the last five years. [168990]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff at each grade in his Department have access to electronic databases which contain personal information on members of the public. [168991]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many breaches of personal data security there were in his Department in each year since 1997. [168992]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when each electronic database in his Department which contains personal data was created. [168993]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many electronic databases his Department has which contain the *(a)* names, *(b)* addresses, *(c)* bank details and *(d)* other personal information of members of the public. [168994]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169220]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 requiring investigation there have been in the last five years in his Department; what the nature of such breaches was; and what the results of the investigations were in each case. [169256]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime

Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170249]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Developing Countries: Overseas Aid**

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish the development effectiveness summaries for key multilateral partners on his Department's website. [169311]

**Mr. Malik:** We plan to publish multilateral development effectiveness summaries covering 15 institutions on the DFID website on 3 December.

**Fairtrade Foundation: Finance**

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department allocated to the Fairtrade Foundation in each of the last five years; how much will be given in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [168391]

**Mr. Thomas:** In each of the last five years we have given the following funding to the Fairtrade Foundation:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 240,695 |
| 2004-05 | 230,478 |
| 2005-06 | 264,169 |
| 2006-07 | 296,795 |
| 2007-08 | 135,583 |

We are currently discussing future funding with the UK Fairtrade Foundation and its international partner, Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International (FLO). At the request of FLO, we have agreed to give interim funding to the Fairtrade Foundation for the next two years, until a strategic review on its expansion has been completed and a longer-term proposal can be put to donors. Our interim support will be around €1 million over two years. No decision has been made about the size of our longer-term funding, but we remain committed to expanding the fair trade sector.

**Forced Labour: Cocoa**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Government of Ivory Coast, *(b)* the Government of Ghana and *(c)* other Governments of cocoa-producing countries on the use of child labour in cocoa production. [168521]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID officials regularly discuss child labour in the cocoa industry with the Government of Ghana, who has shown strong commitment to the issue. The Government have passed a Children's Act which prohibits child labour, especially the engagement of children in hazardous and exploitative work. It has also been working with the International Labour Organisation on a Programme for the elimination of child labour since 2000 and is collaborating with the industry initiative, known as the Harkin-Engel Protocol, to eradicate child labour in cocoa production.

DFID has not held discussions with the Government of Ivory Coast on child labour in cocoa production. DFID does not have a bilateral programme with Ivory Coast.

DFID has had no discussions with the Governments in other cocoa-producing countries specifically on the use of child labour in cocoa production.

**Non-Governmental Organisations: Finance**

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department gave to *(a)* domestic and *(b)* international non-governmental organisations and charities pursuing fair trade goals in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [168393]

**Mr. Thomas:** Over the last five years we have provided over £2 million in funding to a number of different fair trade projects with different domestic non-governmental organisations. The annual breakdown is as follows.

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 96,052 |
| 2004-05 | 130,478 |
| 2005-06 | 334,653 |
| 2006-07 | 944,789 |
| 2007-08 | 870,330 |

We have provided funding through a variety of mechanisms, including programme grants to the Fairtrade Foundation and other fair-trade organisations such as the Co-operative College and the Development Awareness Fund. Though all recipients of the above grants are UK-based, a number of them work with international organisations. For example, the Fairtrade Foundation works closely with Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International. As a result, some funding reaches non-UK based NGOs, though the specific amounts may not be detailed in project proposals.

**Tibet: Asylum**

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much he allocated to support work with refugees from Tibet in each of the last five years. [169052]

**Mr. Malik:** We have not provided any support to refugees from Tibet in the last five years.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 3 December 2007*

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Written Questions: Regional Government

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Leader of the House whether she plans to allow regional Ministers to answer written parliamentary questions from hon. Members. [169598]

**Ms Harman:** The accountability of regional Ministers is one of the issues which the Select Committee on the Modernisation of the House of Commons has confirmed will be an inquiry.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards: Pay

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* salaries of staff in and *(b)* total costs incurred by the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards were in the most recent year for which figures are available. [170474]

**Nick Harvey:** The total staffing costs of the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards for 2006-07 were £379,609 and the overall running costs £386,548, as reported in the Commissioner's 2006-07 Annual Report (HC1012). These figures do not include indirect overhead costs, such as accommodation, which are not available. It is not the Commission's practice to give details of individual salaries.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Birds: Conservation

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he *(a)* has had recently and *(b)* plans to have with conservation organisations and statutory country agencies on the future of the UK bird registration scheme under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. [168925]

**Joan Ruddock:** My Department has discussed the bird registration scheme with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the RSPB and the Hawk Board recently. On 6 December, I am due to meet the RSPB, the Hawk Board and a number of other organisations, together with Members of Parliament who have shown an interest in the future of the bird registration scheme.

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of a discontinuation or weakening of the UK bird registration scheme under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 on *(a)* the enforcement of wildlife crime in the UK and *(b)* the UK's biodiversity targets; and if he will make a statement. [168926]

**Joan Ruddock:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs. Moon) on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 861W. Birds registered under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 are primarily captive bred birds. The UK's biodiversity targets are aimed at improving the conservation status of wild species. Only six species of wild birds subject to registration are also subject to biodiversity action plans, and these are only kept in very low numbers. Therefore any discontinuation of the bird registration scheme is unlikely to affect the UK's biodiversity targets.

### British Waterways: Finance

**Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the likely impact of budget reductions on British Waterways. [170527]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The formal comprehensive spending review settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11 for Departments has been announced and will now be followed by DEFRA's own financial allocation process, during which the budget for British Waterways will be determined. The final allocations will not be known until the new year after further discussions with Ministers. The process of allocation will be based on careful prioritisation across the Department and all its sponsored bodies. We are engaging British Waterways in this and working with them to develop a long-term strategy which will maximise public benefits while delivering an affordable sustainable network within the total funding available.

### Carbon Emissions: Government Departments

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions of each Department as a result of the consumption of *(a)* gas, *(b)* electricity and *(c)* water in each year since 1997. [169919]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) publishes information on carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions arising from central Government Departments in its sustainable development in government report. SDC data are only from 1999-2000 and include data on emissions from electricity and use of fossil fuels. There are no estimates of $CO_2$ emissions arising from water consumption.

The latest annual report is available on their website at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2006/.

### Climate Change

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Oldham West and Royton of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 12W, on climate change, if he will clarify the information given in the tables; and if he will make a statement. [170116]

**Mr. Woolas:** A detailed description of UK emissions estimates can be found in the 'UK Climate Change Programme: Annual Report to Parliament, 2007', as laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 2 of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006. Copies of the report can be found in the parliamentary Libraries.

### Coastal Areas: Standards

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many beaches were awarded blue flag status in each of the last three years. [169852]

**Mr. Woolas:** The information requested is set out in the following table.

| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Blue flag awards (England) | 65 | 77 | 85 |
| Blue flag awards (UK) | 118 | 136 | 149 |

More information can be found on the Blue Flag website.

### Commission for Rural Communities: Finance

**Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the budget of the Commission for Rural Communities for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what the planned budget is for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) each subsequent year of the current spending round. [170084]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The 2006-07 budget for the Commission for Rural Communities has already been published in their Annual Report and Accounts, which are available in the Libraries of the House. The budget for 2007-08 has also already been published and is available in the Commission's published Corporate Plan, available from their website. Details of the Commission's future funding will be announced in due course.

### Convention on Biological Diversity

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on decision V/5 of the Convention on Biological Diversity on socio-economic and scientific assessments; and if he will make a statement. [168238]

**Joan Ruddock:** Decision V/5 of the Conference of the Parties refers to the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and covers a wide range of issues. To be able to provide the information required by the hon. Member a more specific request is required. The hon. Member is welcome to write to me with the details and I will respond to him.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will adopt the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme. [167809]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme in April 2005.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department met the targets in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate to reverse the trend in carbon dioxide emissions by April. [167810]

**Joan Ruddock:** The report of Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate 2006-07 is not yet complete. Publication is expected in January 2008.

### Departmental Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons he transferred £26,800,000 to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills for the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme; and if he will make a statement. [166461]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme's (BREW) funding is distributed to regional and national delivery bodies over three years (April 2005 to March 2008).

£26,800,000 was transferred to the Department for Innovation, University and Skills' Technology Strategy Board in 2007-08 to run the Sustainable Consumption and Production strand of their Technology Programme, which provides grants for research and development into resource efficiency and for knowledge transfer networks. The transfer reflected commitments that had already been made by the Technology Programme, in agreement with DEFRA.

### EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the Agriculture and Fisheries Council held in Luxembourg on 22 to 23 October 2007. [170947]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made on 8 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 17WS, by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn).

### Floods: Kent

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which areas of Kent he has identified as particularly vulnerable to flooding; and if he will make a statement on future plans for flood defence spending in Kent. [169565]

**Mr. Woolas:** The areas of Kent at the greatest risk of flooding are those within the low-lying fringes of the coastline. Flooding from the sea has major consequences

due mainly to the speed at which the flood can occur. Two thirds of the 71,000 people at risk of flooding in Kent are at risk from the sea.

The Environment Agency is the principal operating authority with responsibility for flood risk management in England and uses long-term plans to identify the best way to reduce flood risk. These 100-year plans, developed with key partners, set out the schemes required. This year the Environment Agency is spending a capital budget of £18 million in Kent to reduce flood risk.

Specific allocations for future years have not yet been set but spend for flood and coastal erosion risk management across all operating authorities will rise progressively from the current level of £600 million a year to £800 million in 2010-11. DEFRA funding will be directed to the most pressing problems on a national basis using a prioritisation system which reflects new Outcome Measures for the programme.

### Floods: Repairs and Maintenance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 141, on responsibility for repairing damage to infrastructure from flooding, who is responsible for the maintenance of, and repairs to, the infrastructure of drains following the summer floods in 2007. [169851]

**Mr. Woolas:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 14W.

### Fly-Tipping

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of fly-tipping were recorded in *(a)* the east of England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last five years; what the estimated cost was of dealing with incidents of fly-tipping in each area in each year; and how many (i) prosecutions and (ii) convictions there were for fly-tipping in each area in each year. [169568]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have arranged for a table to be placed in the Library of the House showing the number of fly-tipping incidents and prosecutions recorded in each local authority by local authorities on Flycapture for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Following the release of the 2006-07 Flycapture statistics on 9 October 2007, this information has been sent to all MPs and has been placed in the Printed Paper Office.

It is also available to download electronically on DEFRA's Flycapture website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

### Game: Non-Domestic Rates

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will provide his Department's list of game farms to the Valuation Office Agency for its work on business rates; and if he will make a statement. [168918]

**Joan Ruddock:** DEFRA holds information on those game farms of over 50 birds that have provided their details to the Great Britain Poultry Register (GBPR), a register set up to control and prevent avian influenza. DEFRA is currently consulting on expanding the uses to which the information on the register might be put.

One of the issues canvassed in the consultation paper is the possibility of sharing data with other Government Departments and non-departmental public bodies (NDPB). When the consultation process is complete, and responses have been analysed, DEFRA will be able to form a view on whether the supply of personal data to the Valuation Office Agency (or any other Government Department or NDPB) is tenable.

No decisions will be made about the sharing and use of GBPR data, in addition to what already happens, until this process is complete. Since a lot of the information in question would constitute personal data, any such decisions will take full account of our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 and relevant guidance, such as that issued by the Information Commissioner.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Finance

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the procedure is for reimbursing CORGI gas installers who accept Warm Front vouchers and who do not have access to the internet. [169338]

**Mr. Woolas:** Installers registering for the Warm Front 300 heating rebate scheme must do so using the internet.

Once successfully registered, installers are reimbursed by sending the voucher and claim form with the customer's signature and a copy of the invoice to the Scheme Manager at eaga plc. Following checks, eaga plc will make the payment within 30 days.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at what stage his Department informs CORGI gas installers installing equipment under the Warm Front programme that £50 of each £300 voucher they accept in payment from a customer will be withheld from them as payment for administration charges. [169339]

**Mr. Woolas:** The scheme description and processes sections of the Warm Front 300 rebate scheme website details the £50 administration charge. Installers must confirm that they fully understand these processes prior to their registration to work on the scheme.

### Housing: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to encourage the building and construction industry to build carbon zero housing. [168792]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government have put in place a wide set of programmes to encourage the building and construction industry to build zero carbon housing.

My Department has commissioned English Partnerships to run the Carbon Challenge. The aim is to accelerate the house building industry's response to climate change by creating a number of zero carbon communities and to equip the industry with the appropriate skills and technology. In the first phase of the Carbon Challenge around 1,000 zero carbon homes will be built all of which will be required to meet Level 6, which is the highest level, of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Furthermore, the industry, together with local authorities and other stakeholders have been invited to come forward with proposals for eco-towns. Eco-towns will be entirely new settlements which are exemplar "green developments" of five to 20,000 homes and designed to meet the highest standards of sustainability. The development as a whole (including all homes) should reach zero carbon and should use the standards set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes as a guide.

The stamp duty relief for new zero carbon homes will also act as a financial incentive to the industry.

The building and construction industry are also represented on the 2016 task force which was established to look at the barriers to achieving zero carbon homes by 2016 and the measures needed to address them.

### Inland Waterways: Finance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in the budget for the maintenance of inland waterways; [169108]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effect of reductions in the budget for inland waterways on the tourist industry. [169110]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA sponsors the three largest navigation authorities—British Waterways, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority. DEFRA does not hold information on the funding and condition of waterways owned or managed by other navigation authorities.

The formal CSR settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11 for Departments has been announced. This will now be followed by the Department's own financial allocation process during which the budgets for the Environment Agency, British Waterways and the Broads will be determined. The process is based on careful prioritisation across the Department and all its sponsored bodies. We are actively engaging delivery partners in this, but most final allocations, including those for the Environment Agency and British Waterways, will not be known until the new year after further discussions within DEFRA.

The contribution of the inland waterways to the tourist industry is acknowledged and navigation authorities will bear this in mind when determining their priorities.

We are working with British Waterways and the Environment Agency to develop long-term strategies which will maximise public benefits whilst delivering an affordable sustainable network within the total funding available.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the letter of 1 October from the Minister for the Environment (reference: MC45270/TB), when he will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 26 October 2007. [170090]

**Mr. Woolas:** I am sorry for the delay in responding. A reply will be sent to the hon. Member shortly.

### Nitrate Sensitive Areas

**Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the nitrate levels were in each of the areas which his Department plans to designate as nitrate vulnerable zones *(a)* on the most recent date for which figures are available and *(b)* (i) five and (ii) 10 years prior to that date. [166780]

**Mr. Woolas** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* We are currently consulting on this matter and no decisions have been taken.

There are approximately 7,000 surface water monitoring points in England and Wales used to assess whether waters should be designated as polluted waters in the recent review under the nitrates directive. The information requested would require extensive research to be undertaken and therefore it is not possible to provide it because of the disproportionate costs involved.

### Nitrogen Oxides: Pollution Control

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government are planning to seek a *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent derogation from mandatory air quality limits on Nox which will apply from 2010 under EU directive 1999/30/EC. [170671]

**Jonathan Shaw:** There is no provision for a derogation from mandatory air quality limit values for oxides of nitrogen or nitrogen dioxide under directive 1999/30/EC. That directive sets limit values for nitrogen dioxide to be met by 2010.

A new ambient air quality directive, currently under negotiation, is expected to permit member states to apply for an additional five years to meet the nitrogen dioxide limit values. Subject to adoption of the directive, UK Government decisions around the use of this flexibility will be subject to public consultation.

### Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have expressed interest in having a depository for nuclear waste in their area; and if he will make a statement. [169218]

**Mr. Woolas:** The consultation on "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: a Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal" closed on 2 November 2007. An invitation for communities to express an interest will be invited later, once responses to the consultation have been assessed.

### Science Advisory Council: Biofuels

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Science Advisory Council supports the Government's targets on biofuels. [168718]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Science Advisory Council (SAC) has not been asked by the Government, nor as far as I am aware has it voluntarily commented on whether it supports the Government's targets on biofuels.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from members of the Science Advisory Council on the environmental effects of the Government's targets on biofuels; which members of the Council have made such representations; and if he will make a statement. [168719]

**Mr. Woolas:** Members of the Science Advisory Council (SAC), collectively or as individual members, have not made any representations to my Department on the environmental effects of the Government's targets on biofuels.

### Sewers

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidelines are issued by Ofwat on the design of foul sewerage systems in respect of the frequency of storm events; and if he will make a statement; [169990]

(2) what discussions he has had with Ofwat on the design of foul sewerage systems in respect of the frequency of storm events; and if he will make a statement. [169991]

**Mr. Woolas:** Ofwat does not issue guidelines on the design of foul sewerage systems. This is a matter for individual water and sewerage companies. Design standards for developers constructing new sewers are produced by the water and sewerage industry itself.

Foul sewerage systems do not carry storm water and are not therefore designed for frequency of storm events.

Ofwat and local authorities will be represented on a steering group which will be assisting the Government in looking at build standards for future sewerage provision. This forms part of DEFRA's work on implementing the Government's decision to transfer private sewers and lateral drains draining to the public sewerage system into the ownership of the water and sewerage companies.

### Summer Time: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on UK carbon dioxide emissions of maintaining British Summer time in winter and introducing double British Summer time in summer. [168763]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Building Research Establishment, as part of the 2006 review of the UK Climate Change programme, estimated that adopting British summer time (BST) all year round would lead to approximately a 1 per cent. increase in carbon dioxide emissions. Switching to continental time (BST in the winter and BST plus one hour in the summer) would increase these emissions by about 2 per cent. Continental time was found to generate savings from domestic lighting and cooling in non-domestic buildings, but these effects are likely to be offset by increases in non-domestic heating and lighting, and by a small increase in domestic heating.

### Water: North East Region

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that water customers in the North East region will not have to contribute to a national recovery of compensation costs which affect other regions and other water company areas under the Water Abstraction Charges Scheme. [169850]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment Agency is expected to take action against abstraction licences where the abstraction is adversely impacting on conservation sites, in particular those designated under European legislation. Where it needs to revoke or modify an abstraction licence, compensation is generally payable. The compensation payments form part of the cost of meeting its duty to manage water resources and will therefore be recovered via abstraction charges.

The Environment Agency is consulting on options to recover any compensation that may be payable. No decision on changes to abstraction charges will be taken until the consultation ends on 7 December and the Environment Agency has submitted its proposals to Ministers.

### Whales

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of humpback whales living in the wild. [169542]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Commercial whaling seriously depleted all humpback stocks (a species listed as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red list of threatened species). None of the "great" whale species have recovered to pre-exploitation levels.

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) recognises that there is considerable scientific uncertainty over the numbers of whales of different species and in different geographical stocks. For this reason, the IWC have decided not to give whale population figures except for those species/stocks which have been assessed in some detail.

At present, the following table shows the best estimates (and associated confidence intervals) for humpback whales in certain areas.

*Humpback whales*

| *Population* | *Year(s) to which estimate applies* | *Approximate point estimate* | *Approximate 95 per cent. confidence limits* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Western North Atlantic[1] | 1992-93 | 11,600 | 10,100-13,200 |
| Southern Hemisphere south of 60S in summer (i.e. incomplete)[2] | 1997-98 | 42,000 | 34,000-52,000 |
| North Pacific[3] | 2007 | at least 10,000 | [4] |

[1] A rate of population increase of 3.1 per cent. (SE=0.005) was obtained from the Gulf of Maine for the period 1979-1993.
[2] Rates of increase. East Australia: 1981-96 12.4 per cent. (95 per cent. CI 10.1-14.4 per cent.). West Australia: 1977-91 10.9 per cent. (7.9-13.9 per cent.).
[3] Rates of increase of about 7 per cent. have been reported for the eastern North Pacific, 1990-2002.
[4] Not yet available.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Food

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166644]

**David Cairns:** None. The Scotland Office does not provide in-house canteen or other catering services.

### Departmental Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials in his Department have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167926]

**David Cairns:** None.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167222]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office has a variety of software, from different manufacturers, used within the Department. A typical PC will have a Microsoft Windows XP operating systems and software packages from at least 10 manufacturers. The software build has been developed to interact well and securely with all Government Departments and aid office productivity.

### Departmental Manpower

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168100]

**David Cairns:** All the staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from other civil service departments, mainly the Ministry of Justice or the Scottish Executive. It is the responsibility of those Departments to provide details of EU foreign nationals and non-EU foreign nationals employed.

### Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people in his Department and its predecessors were paid over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167200]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999.

Details of how many people were paid more than £100,000 in each year since 1999 are contained in the Scotland Office Annual Reports. Copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Education Funding

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what funding he has allocated in cash terms to *(a)* Higher Education Funding Council for England funding for teaching costs only, *(b)* fee grants, *(c)* fee loans, *(d)* maintenance loans, *(e)* maintenance grants and *(f)* access funds in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11; [168983]

(2) what the resource cost is expected to be of *(a)* fee loans and *(b)* maintenance loans in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [168985]

**Bill Rammell:** We are working through the detailed implications of the higher education settlement following the DIUS CSR07 announcement and will be in a position to provide more information early next year.

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168105]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information about EU and non EU foreign nationals could be obtained in the form requested only at disproportionate cost. All potential new appointments to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills are subject to nationality, passport, proof of identity and reference checks before contracts of employment are issued.

### Departmental Land

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what land surplus to his Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168844]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has no surplus land.

## Departmental Orders and Regulations

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many regulations his Department and its predecessors have *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked in the last 12 months. [167077]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and its predecessors, the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in as much as DFES and DTI covered areas of work now covered by DIUS, made 40 regulations and revoked 26 in the 12 months which ended on 27 November 2007.

## Education: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of 18-to 24-year-olds in West Chelmsford constituency are in full-time education; and what the figures were in each of the last five years. [168456]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 28 November 2007]:* Annual average estimates of the proportion of people in full-time education by age are available at a local level from the Annual Population Survey (APS[1]) and its predecessor the Local Labour Force Survey (LLFS[2]). Estimates for West Chelmsford for 2006 and for the previous five years are shown in the following table. These small area estimates are based on very small samples and are therefore subject to high sampling variability. They should therefore be treated with caution and in particular changes from year to year should not be used in isolation from the figures for a run of years. Regional and national estimates have been shown for comparison.

[1] APS estimates are for the average of the calendar year concerned from January to December.

[2] LLFS estimates are for the average of the 12 months from March to the following February.

*Percentage*

| | *LLFS 2001-02* | *LLFS 2002-03* | *LLFS 2003-04* | *APS 2004* | *APS 2005* | *APS 2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Chelmsford | 34 | 20 | 22 | 32 | 33 | 30 |
| East of England | 18 | 19 | 22 | 20 | 22 | 21 |
| England | 26 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 28 | 27 |

## Educational Institutions: Catering

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* universities have been supplied with meat by McLaren Foods in the last 12 months. [170442]

**Mr. Lammy:** The information requested is not collected by this Department.

## English Language: Education

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to assess the effectiveness of the recently introduced changes to the provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages. [169608]

**Bill Rammell:** The first return of learner data is not expected until December 2007, and this will help to develop an understanding of the implications of the Government's changes to ESOL policy for 2007/08 at a national as well as local level. The LSC and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills are working very closely to analyse the full impact of the ESOL policy changes on demand, as well as on provider behaviour. We have commissioned additional impact assessment work to help us do this and expect to have results in the new year. The priority for the Government and the LSC is that public support is available to those who need it most, and we will continue to work towards this agenda.

## Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167930]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department does not offer private health insurance as part of the employment package.

The Department has no agencies.

## Higher Education: Closures

**Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will make it his policy to require the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to collect information about and report to him on proposals by universities to withdraw services from specific campuses; and if he will instruct the HEFCE to do so in the case of the University of Bath and the Oakfield campus in Swindon; [168711]

(2) how much funding from the public purse was given to the University of Bath for the Oakfield Campus *(a)* prior to and *(b)* since its opening in 2000; how many higher education schemes initiated by his Department are run at the campus; and how many students were on these courses at the Oakfield Campus at the latest date for which figures are available; [168712]

(3) if he will assess the likely effect on the delivery of vocational courses funded by his Department at the University of Bath of that university's proposal to withdraw from the Oakfield campus in Swindon; [168562]

(4) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the University of Bath's proposal to withdraw from the Oakfield campus in Swindon on his Department's policy of encouraging greater access to higher education; [168563]

(5) what discussions he has had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England on the interests of students whose courses are affected by the withdrawal of universities from satellite campuses. [168714]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]*: Higher education institutions are autonomous bodies funded through block grant and free to decide their own strategies including the organisation of teaching and learning, in the light of their relative strengths and student demand. That said, I expect them as a matter of good practice to consult local Members of Parliament on any major reorganisation which affects their constituents.

I understand that Bath university has decided to withdraw the offer provision of higher education from the Oakfield campus in the light of its assessment of student demand. That is a matter for the university, but I would expect all institutions contemplating changes of this sort to engage in early dialogue with HEFCE so that wherever possible, options for other alternative provision can be considered and they should also keep hon. Members informed of their future intentions. I am aware that a number of proposals about enhancing opportunities for higher education study in Swindon are currently under consideration.

## Higher Education: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of 18 to 22 year olds from each London borough were studying at university *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest dates for which figures are available. [169233]

**Bill Rammell:** The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation is currently the higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The earliest figure is 39.3 per cent. for 1999-2000 and the latest available figure is 42.8 per cent. for 2005-06.

Equivalent figures for the 18-22 year old age group are 33.4 per cent. for 1999-2000 and 36.2 per cent. for 2005-06.

Figures for 2006-07 will become available in 2008. The HEIPR is not disaggregated below national level.

HEFCE's 'Young participation in Higher Education' publication includes the proportion of young people who enter higher education at age 18 or 19 by local authority, although this only covers the years up to 2000. Participation rates based on this work are given on the supporting POLAR website (www.hefce.ac.uk/polar). The figures for 1997 and 2000 are shown in the table.

*Proportion of young people from London boroughs who entered higher education at age 18 or 19, for the cohorts reaching 18 in 1997 and in 2000*

| LSC area[1] | Local authority | 1997 | Percentage 2000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| London East | City of London | 52 | 60 |
| | Greenwich | 21 | 24 |
| | Hackney | 19 | 22 |
| | Lewisham | 24 | 27 |
| | Tower Hamlets | 17 | 24 |
| | Barking and Dagenham | 13 | 15 |
| | Bexley | 23 | 26 |
| | Havering | 22 | 23 |
| | Newham | 26 | 31 |
| | Redbridge | 43 | 48 |
| London Central | Camden | 38 | 44 |
| | Islington | 24 | 30 |
| | Kensington and Chelsea | 48 | 60 |
| | Lambeth | 25 | 29 |
| | Southwark | 22 | 27 |
| | Wandsworth | 35 | 39 |
| | Westminster | 43 | 48 |
| London West | Hammersmith and Fulham | 33 | 38 |
| | Brent | 44 | 48 |
| | Ealing | 41 | 46 |
| | Harrow | 51 | 54 |
| | Hillingdon | 31 | 34 |
| | Hounslow | 36 | 41 |
| London North | Barnet | 51 | 52 |
| | Enfield | 35 | 37 |
| | Haringey | 31 | 33 |
| | Waltham Forest | 29 | 32 |
| London South | Bromley | 37 | 39 |
| | Croydon | 33 | 36 |
| | Kingston upon Thames | 43 | 47 |
| | Merton | 36 | 41 |
| | Richmond upon Thames | 55 | 56 |
| | Sutton | 34 | 35 |

[1] Learning and Skills Council area

*Source:*

"Young Participation in Higher Education", published by HEFCE

## Higher Education: Mature Students

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time mature students enrolled on a higher education course in each year since 2001; [166861]

(2) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time (i) mature and (ii) other students were enrolled on higher education courses in each year since 2001. [166862]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest information is shown in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

*UK domiciled entrants to undergraduate courses by age[1], higher education institutions in England, 2000/01 to 2006/06*

| | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05[2] | 2005/06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Full-time* | | | | | |
| Under 21 | 213,070 | 218,450 | 219,325 | 222,770 | 239,430 |
| 21 and over | 76,600 | 81,625 | 83,255 | 83,270 | 85,210 |
| Total | 289,670 | 300,075 | 302,580 | 306,040 | 324,640 |
| *Part-time* | | | | | |
| Under 21 | 11,970 | 11,770 | 12,665 | 14,570 | 16,750 |
| 21 and over | 237,390 | 236,950 | 245,935 | 237,040 | 253,425 |
| Total | 249,360 | 248,720 | 258,600 | 251,610 | 270,175 |

[1] Mature students are defined as those aged 21 or over.
[2] In 2004/05, there was undercounting of students by one large part-time provider which contributed to the fall in part-time entrants between 2003/04 and 2004/05.
*Note:*
Numbers are on a HESA Standard Registration population basis, and have been rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

### Islam: Education

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the Higher Education Funding Council for England plans to respond to the recommendations of the report Islam at Universities in England. [169612]

**Bill Rammell:** The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) set out a programme of work in response to relevant recommendations in the report Islam at Universities in England in September. This will lead to proposals from HEFCE in summer 2008.

### National Security

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report,* columns 667-72, on national security, when he plans to invite universities to lead the debate on academic freedom and associated issues as referred to by the Prime Minister. [168442]

**Bill Rammell:** As a first step, I undertook to engage with the university sector by setting out my views in a lecture given to the Fabian Society on 27 November. A copy of this lecture can be found on the website of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. I am undertaking a number of visits to different universities to talk to students and staff about this issue as well as contact with sector bodies to encourage them to engage with and lead this debate. Academic freedom is one of the most powerful means at our disposal to challenge the views of violent extremists and to promote cohesive communities.

### Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of overseas students who had to withdraw from a course at a UK university due to delays in receiving their visa and *(b)* the number of overseas students who applied for university courses in the UK and subsequently applied for a student visa (i) successfully and (ii) unsuccessfully in the latest period for which figures are available. [169594]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department does not have any figures on the numbers of overseas students who have had to withdraw from courses through delays in receiving their visas. There is no reason why applications for visas which are made in good time and with the necessary supporting documentation would be delayed. UKVisas' latest published statistics for the F/Y 2005/2006 indicate that a total of 284,447 student applications were received, of which 194,827 visas were issued and 88,897 applications refused. These figures do not distinguish between level of study and thus cover higher education, further education and language study.

### Skilled Workers: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that residents from each London borough will have the requisite skills to take advantage of jobs resulting from the Olympics in 2012; and if he will make a statement. [169236]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 26 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 272W.

### Sponsorship

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what television programmes have been sponsored by his Department, its predecessors and its arm's length bodies since 1997; how much public money was spent in each case; which departmental initiatives, bodies or programmes they were supporting; and what assessments were made of the effectiveness of the campaigns. [166865]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 24 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 428W, which gives details of television programmes that have been sponsored by the Department, its predecessors and arms length bodies since 1997.

We hold only very basic information on marketing campaigns by our agencies and am therefore unable to provide more detail. I can provide details on those campaigns specifically commissioned by the Department's predecessors.

*Investors in People: In Good Company (September 2004 on ITV1 Carlton region)*

Spend: £100,000 to cover all production, fees, excluding VAT.

Investors in People wished to increase take-up of its accreditation among small to medium enterprise (SME) market of between five and 250 employees.

Qualitative research groups were conducted to evaluate the impact of the programmes.

*Adult basic Skills: City Survival Guide (ITV London January-March 2003)*

Spend: £35,000 including production, fees, excluding VAT.

Developed to complement the national Gremlins publicity campaign at a more local level.

No formal research evaluation conducted of this specific element of a much wider, long-term campaign. Viewers were able to call a helpline number to find out more about adult literacy courses.

**Students: Finance**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on the Department's proposal to stop funding at Higher Education Funding Council for England level for students undertaking study for equivalent or lower level qualifications at the Open University; what impact assessment he has made of the decisions with particular reference to students from lower income backgrounds and part-time students; and what other funding sources are available to those people. [169609]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department took this decision which applies to every provider in order to target resources on our top priorities and the country's long-term needs. It will enable an additional 20,000 students without a first qualification whom we could not otherwise support to enjoy all the benefits of participating in higher education. Many of this group are likely to be part-time students from lower income backgrounds. The overall effect of these changes on the income of individual institutions will depend on how successful they are in attracting students who meet our priorities. No students currently studying for equivalent and lower level qualifications will be affected, no institution will lose grant in cash terms and future students studying for such qualifications will be able to look at what is on offer at over 250 providers. But they cannot be more deserving of public funding than those who have not obtained a first qualification. The Higher Education Funding Council are currently consulting the university sector on the detailed implementation of this policy.

**Students: Grants**

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assistance is afforded by his Department to UK-based students who wish to travel abroad for short periods to support their studies or career development potential or for volunteering and cannot afford the cost. [169427]

**Bill Rammell:** Eligible students studying a course of higher education, who are attending an overseas institution as part of their UK course receive a maximum overseas rate of loan for living costs of £5,375 and receive travel grants to meet the cost of travel within and outside the UK for the purpose of attending the overseas institution. Those who attend their UK institution for less than 10 weeks of the academic year will have their tuition fee reduced by 50 per cent.

Career development loans are also available to individuals who want to undertake learning at institutions outside the UK, as long as they intend to take up employment in the UK, the EU, or the EEA when they complete their course. No specific support is available for volunteering abroad.

**Students: Minorities**

**Jim Cousins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of first year undergraduate students, excluding those from other European Union member states and overseas, were from black and ethnic minority backgrounds in the *(a)* 2007-08 academic year and *(b)* in each of the last five such years, in (i) England and (ii) each university in the North East. [167212]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The latest available information is shown in the following table. Figures for 2006-07 will be available in January 2008.

*UK domiciled undergraduate entrants by ethnic background to English[1] and north-east higher education institutions, academic years 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| | Ethnic background | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *English higher education institutions* | *White[2]* | *Black and ethnic minority[3]* | *Total known* | *Not known[4]* | *Total* | *Percentage of known black and ethnic minority* |
| 2001-02 | 358,525 | 76,740 | 435,270 | 51,605 | 486,870 | 17.6 |
| 2002-03 | 367,015 | 82,750 | 449,765 | 51,560 | 501,325 | 18.4 |
| 2003-04 | 368,545 | 84,420 | 452,965 | 47,305 | 500,270 | 18.6 |
| 2004-05 | 374,305 | 90,535 | 464,840 | 36,235 | 501,080 | 19.5 |
| 2005-06 | 385,890 | 94,845 | 480,735 | 39,500 | 520,240 | 19.7 |

*UK domiciled undergraduate entrants by ethnic background to English[1] and north-east higher education institutions, academic years 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| | Ethnic background | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *English higher education institutions* | *White[2]* | *Black and ethnic minority[3]* | *Total known* | *Not known[4]* | *Total* | *Percentage of known black and ethnic minority* |
| *Of which:* | | | | | | |
| *Durham University* | | | | | | |
| 2001-02 | 3,085 | 185 | 3,270 | 95 | 3,365 | 5.6 |
| 2002-03 | 3,390 | 215 | 3,605 | 50 | 3,655 | 5.9 |
| 2003-04 | 3,520 | 220 | 3,735 | 65 | 3,805 | 5.8 |
| 2004-05 | 3,310 | 255 | 3,565 | 55 | 3,620 | 7.1 |
| 2005-06 | 3,350 | 230 | 3,575 | 70 | 3,645 | 6.4 |
| *University of Newcastle Upon Tyne* | | | | | | |
| 2001-02 | 4,780 | 240 | 5,020 | 115 | 5,140 | 4.8 |
| 2002-03 | 3,230 | 185 | 3,420 | 735 | 4,155 | 5.5 |
| 2003-04 | 3,460 | 175 | 3,640 | 135 | 3,775 | 4.9 |
| 2004-05 | 3,655 | 205 | 3,860 | 95 | 3,955 | 5.3 |
| 2005-06 | 3,870 | 260 | 4,125 | 90 | 4,220 | 6.3 |
| *University of Northumbria at Newcastle* | | | | | | |
| 2001-02 | 6,855 | 305 | 7,165 | 880 | 8,045 | 4.3 |
| 2002-03 | 7,365 | 385 | 7,750 | 845 | 8,595 | 5.0 |
| 2003-04 | 6,435 | 370 | 6,800 | 830 | 7,630 | 5.4 |
| 2004-05 | 6,470 | 450 | 6,920 | 485 | 7,405 | 6.5 |
| 2005-06 | 8,105 | 460 | 8,570 | 130 | 8,700 | 5.4 |
| *University of Sunderland* | | | | | | |
| 2001-02 | 3,885 | 255 | 4,140 | 135 | 4,275 | 6.1 |
| 2002-03 | 4,085 | 275 | 4,355 | 2,605 | 6,960 | 6.3 |
| 2003-04 | 4,765 | 365 | 5,130 | 3,050 | 8,180 | 7.1 |
| 2004-05 | 6,910 | 415 | 7,325 | 1,215 | 8,540 | 5.7 |
| 2005-06 | 6,975 | 450 | 7,425 | 1,645 | 9,070 | 6.0 |
| *University of Teesside* | | | | | | |
| 2001-02 | 7,335 | 550 | 7,885 | 1,340 | 9,225 | 7.0 |
| 2002-03 | 7,545 | 450 | 7,995 | 1,695 | 9,690 | 5.6 |
| 2003-04 | 8,030 | 485 | 8,515 | 935 | 9,450 | 5.7 |
| 2004-05 | 8,105 | 620 | 8,725 | 1,055 | 9,780 | 7.1 |
| 2005-06 | 8,315 | 655 | 8,970 | 1,145 | 10,115 | 7.3 |

[1] Excludes the Open University.
[2] Includes White, White-British, White-Irish, White-Scottish, Irish Traveller and other white background.
[3] Includes Black or Black British-Caribbean, Black or Black British-African, other black background, Asian or Asian British-Indian, Asian or Asian British-Pakistani, Asian or Asian British-Bangladeshi, Chinese, other Asian background, Mixed-White and Black Caribbean, Mixed-White and Black African, Mixed-White and Asian, other mixed background, other ethnic background.
[4] Includes not known, information refused and missing.
Note:
Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

## Students: Postgraduate Education

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of postgraduate students at UK universities were from *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the EU and *(c)* outside the EU in each of the last five years. [167145]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* The latest available information is shown in the following table. Figures for 2006-07 will be available in January 2008.

*Postgraduate[1] students in UK higher education institutions, by home domicile, 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| *Home domicile:* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Number* | | | | | |
| UK | 346,425 | 357,335 | 367,275 | 366,835 | 373,785 |
| EU | 38,635 | 40,880 | 41,385 | 45,810 | 47,035 |
| Non EU | 81,790 | 99,285 | 115,165 | 119,935 | 124,545 |
| Total | 469,850 | 497,500 | 523,825 | 532,630 | 545,370 |

*Postgraduate[1] students in UK higher education institutions, by home domicile, 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| *Home domicile:* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Percentage* | | | | | |
| UK | 74.4 | 71.8 | 70.1 | 68.9 | 68.5 |
| EU | 8.2 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 8.6 | 8.6 |
| Non EU | 17.4 | 20.0 | 22.0 | 22.5 | 22.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

[1] Covers students on both taught and research courses.

*Source:*

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Numbers are on a HESA Standard Registration population basis, and have been rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages may not sum to totals because of rounding.

### Students: Standards

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what involvement his Department has with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Programme of International Student Assessment; and if he will make a statement. [161888]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) funds England's participation in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

The study is carried out in England by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), under contract to DCSF.

The latest round of PISA testing took place in schools in England in November and December 2006. OECD will publish its international report on the findings on 4 December 2007 and NFER and DCSF will also jointly publish a national report for England on the same day.

### Vocational Education: Loans

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* resource cost and *(b)* cash cost of career development loans is expected to be in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [168984]

**Bill Rammell:** Career development loans are administered by the Learning and Skills Council through three high street banks. Banks provide the loan capital to individuals on a commercial basis. Government expenditure meets the interest on the loan during the time the individual is on their course and the administration costs for the participating banks.

The following table shows the planned public expenditure for career development loans across the next spending review period

*£ million*

| | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cash terms | 23.7 | 23.7 | 23.7 |
| Real terms (2007-08 prices) | 23.1 | 22.5 | 21.9 |

### Vocational Training: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Train to Gain places have been made available in each district area in Gloucestershire. [170100]

**Mr. Lammy:** Train to Gain is a major aspect of the drive to create a demand-led service and does not generate places in the traditional sense. Through Train to Gain, employers can access the advice and support they need to help them identify and then meet the skills their businesses need to succeed. In the first year of its operation, there were a total of 883 learners funded through Train to Gain in the Gloucestershire county council district areas. The breakdown was as follows: Cheltenham 137, Cotswold 155, Forest of Dean 68, Gloucester City 207, Stroud 226 and Tewkesbury 90.

## OLYMPICS

### Olympic Games: China

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she took on her recent visit to Beijing to encourage the Chinese authorities to ensure freedom of movement and expression in China for both domestic and international press *(a)* in the run-up to the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 and *(b)* afterwards; and how many meetings she has had with Chinese officials at which media freedom was discussed. [169047]

**Tessa Jowell:** During a meeting with the President of BOCOG and Party Secretary of Beijing, I urged the Chinese Government to make permanent the new regulations for foreign correspondents that were implemented in January 2007. These regulations temporarily lift restrictions on travel and the requirement to seek official permission for interviews, up to and including the 2008 Olympic Games. While these regulations are welcome, we continue to urge the Chinese to lift all media restrictions, both before and after the Games, including on domestic media.

I made similar representations during my previous visit to Beijing in September 2006, and in a meeting with the Chinese Information Minister in London in April 2007.

As part of my most recent visit to Beijing, I also met a group of British and international correspondents to hear their views on how the new regulations are operating.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what she plans the next steps of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy to be; and what stage each one has reached. [169176]

**Mr. Coaker:** In June of this year, the Home Office, Department of Health and Department for Children, Schools and Families jointly launched 'Safe. Sensible. Social'—The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy which builds on lessons learned and progress made since the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England published in March 2004. The renewed strategy outlines the Government's long-term commitment to tackling alcohol-related harms. New measures outlined in this Strategy include:

support for local areas to tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder,

earlier identification interventions and treatment for drinking that could cause harm,

continuing to tackle underage sales of alcohol,

greater effort to tackle alcohol —related offending,

a review of the relationship between price, promotion and harm,

a review on the effectiveness of the alcohol industry's social responsibility standards document in contributing to a reduction in alcohol harm,

promoting a sensible drinking culture through sustained national campaigning to challenge the tolerance of drunkenness and drinking that causes harm, and

preventing harms to those under 18 years of age.

We will shortly publish a local strategy toolkit and guidance on the use of tools and powers to help local areas tackle alcohol related harms. We have recently carried out a Tackling Under Age Sales of Alcohol campaign which saw overall failure rates falling to 14 per cent. and will shortly undertake a Responsible Alcohol Sales Campaign. We recently undertook a Confiscation of Alcohol Campaign to support the commencement of new powers (section 27 Directions to leave) available through the Violent Crime Reduction Act to disperse persons who are likely to cause or contribute to alcohol related crime or disorder, and support the use of existing powers in relation to the confiscation of alcohol (Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997). We launched Alcohol Arrest Referral Pilot pilots in Cheshire, Ealing, Manchester and Liverpool in October that aim to reduce re-offending by individuals who have been arrested for alcohol-related offending.

We have also gone out to tender for the independent review on the effectiveness of the alcohol industry's social responsibility standards document in contributing to a reduction in alcohol harm, we expect the review's findings to be published in April 2008. In addition, the Department of Health are taking forward the independent review the relationship between alcohol price, promotion and harm, we expect the review's findings to be published in the summer of 2008.

We are currently drawing up plans for a wide ranging communications campaign to promote a sensible drinking culture by challenging the tolerance of drunkenness, raising the public's knowledge of units of alcohol and ensuring that everyone has the information they need to estimate how much they really do drink, and developing a range of new kinds of information and advice aimed at people who drink at harmful levels, and their families and friends.

We believe that through a combination of continued tough enforcement of the law and the promotion of a sensible drinking culture, we can continue to see significant reductions in alcohol-related crime and disorder.

## Animal Experiments

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons her Department has decided to end the work of the Research and Alternatives Sub-committee of the Animal Procedures Committee. [169586]

**Meg Hillier:** The Animal Procedures Committee is an independent non-departmental public body and as such the Home Office plays no role in decisions about the work of its sub-committees. However the Committee has now wound down its Research and Alternatives Sub-Committee following the transfer of the Home Office budget for research into alternatives to the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs). The decision to transfer the budget was announced on 21 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 69WS and implemented a recommendation of the House of Lords Select Committee on Animals in Scientific Procedures which reported in July 2002.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the use of carbon dioxide to destroy animals regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [169882]

**Meg Hillier:** Schedule 1 to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 lists exposure to carbon dioxide gas in a rising concentration as a method of humane killing of rodents, rabbits and birds up to 1.5kg provided the process of killing is completed by one of the methods listed in the schedule.

The Animal Procedures Committee completed a review of Schedule 1 of the 1986 Act and published its report and recommendations in December 2006. The scientific evidence relating to this killing method continues to evolve and following on from their report the Committee has agreed to monitor and consider new research into the use of carbon dioxide for the purpose of killing with a view to making further recommendations on whether the current use of carbon dioxide for killing specified laboratory animals should remain a Schedule 1 method. On receipt of their findings we will consider what, if any, action to take.

The full Animal Procedures Committee report on Schedule 1 and the Home Office response is published in the Report of the Animal Procedures Committee for 2006 [HC41].

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the Animal Procedures Committee has been asked to consider the criteria for the discharge of genetically altered animals from the controls of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [169885]

**Meg Hillier:** The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 makes provision for the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes and subjected to regulated procedures which may cause pain, suffering distress or lasting harm. As genetically modified animals are assumed to be potentially more prone to pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm as a

result of the genetic alteration than the background strain from which they are derived their production, breeding and use is regulated under the 1986 Act.

It has, however, always been accepted that there will be some lines of genetically modified animals that are not predisposed to these harms, and administrative provision has been made for the discharge of such animals (at least for breeding purposes) from the controls of the Act. However, in practice, no such lines have, so far, been discharged from the controls of the Act.

In view of this, and as the current discharge criteria were formulated some years ago, the Animal Procedures Committee has been asked to advise on whether the discharge criteria should be revised in the light of the current state of knowledge regarding refined methods of welfare assessments and phenotyping of genetically altered animals. Should they so advise, the aim would be to remove any unnecessary obstacles currently preventing strains being discharged from the controls of the 1986 Act without weakening the provisions for the welfare of protected animals.

### Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what infringements there have been of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [169590]

**Meg Hillier:** The number of infringements since 1997 is detailed in the following table. This information is collected annually and since 1999 is contained in the annual Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library. Infringement reporting changed in 2000 when three new classifications were introduced.

Class 1 infringements involve minor breaches of licence or certificate conditions which are not potential criminal offences, have no aggravating circumstances and no disputed facts;

Class 2 infringements may include potential criminal offences but are cases where it would be clear from the circumstances that prosecution, variation of licence/certificate conditions or revocation action would not be appropriate;

Class 3 infringements are the more serious cases, where training/retraining, variation, suspension or revocation of licences/certificates or referral to the police for possible prosecution are considered.

| | Class 1 | Class 2 | Class 3 | Unclassified | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 to date | 6 | 10 | 12 | — | [1]28 |
| 2006 | 6 | 6 | 20 | — | [2]32 |
| 2005 | 0 | 16 | 10 | — | [2]26 |
| 2004 | 3 | 12 | 13 | — | [2]28 |
| 2003 | 1 | 22 | 17 | — | [2]40 |
| 2002 | 5 | 14 | 9 | — | [2]28 |
| 2001 | 11 | 8 | 18 | — | [2]37 |
| 2000 | — | — | — | 39 | [2]39 |
| 1999 | — | — | — | 28 | [2]28 |
| 1998 | — | — | — | 17 | [3]17 |
| 1997 | — | — | — | 23 | [4]23 |

*Sources:*
[1] Home Office Records
[2] Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals GB
[3] Animal Procedures Committee Annual Report 1998
[4] Animal Procedures Committee Annual Report 1997



### Arrests: Cambridgeshire

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made per full-time police officer in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [169528]

**Mr. McNulty:** The requested information on arrests rates is not available from the information collected centrally, as the information on arrests collected by the Ministry of Justice is limited to just those arrests made for notifiable offences (that is offences covered by police recorded crime).

### Asylum: Iraq and Afghanistan

**Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Iraqi and *(b)* Afghan nationals were granted asylum in (i) the last 12 months for which figures are available and (ii) each of the previous six years. [169480]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on initial decisions and appeals for nationals of Iraq and Afghanistan for October 2006 to September 2007 and each of the previous last six years are shown in the following tables. This is the latest data for which information has been published.

Appeal determinations do not necessarily relate to initial decisions made in the same period.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals by nationality are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

*Initial decisions on applications[1, 2] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, 2001 to September 2007, nationals of Iraq and Afghanistan*

| | Total decisions | Grants of asylum | Grants of ELR[3] | Grants of HP[3] | Grants of DL[3] | Total refusals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Iraq* | | | | | | |
| 2001 | 9,035 | 830 | 1,885 | n/a | n/a | 6,315 |
| 2002 | 11,905 | 715 | 8,195 | n/a | n/a | 2,995 |
| 2003 | 6,805 | 70 | 2,105 | * | 45 | 4,580 |
| 2004 | 4,815 | 10 | n/a | — | 185 | 4,615 |
| 2005 | 1,835 | 5 | n/a | 10 | 150 | 1,675 |

*Initial decisions on applications[1, 2] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, 2001 to September 2007, nationals of Iraq and Afghanistan*

| | Total decisions | Grants of asylum | Grants of ELR[3] | Grants of HP[3] | Grants of DL[3] | Total refusals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006[4] | 740 | 30 | n/a | — | 60 | 650 |
| October 2006 to September 2007[4] | 1,300 | 120 | n/a | 15 | 90 | 1,075 |
| *Afghanistan* | | | | | | |
| 2001 | 12,365 | 2,320 | 7,500 | n/a | n/a | 2,545 |
| 2002 | 8,175 | 115 | 4,765 | n/a | n/a | 3,300 |
| 2003 | 3,975 | 40 | 205 | * | 350 | 3,375 |
| 2004 | 2,680 | 35 | n/a | 10 | 410 | 2,225 |
| 2005 | 1,550 | 30 | n/a | 20 | 445 | 1,050 |
| 2006[4] | 2,115 | 40 | n/a | * | 760 | 1,310 |
| October 2006 to September 2007[4] | 2,495 | 85 | n/a | 5 | 855 | 1,545 |

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2).
[2] Information is for initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] Humanitarian protection and discretionary leave replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.
[4] Provisional figures.

*Asylum appeals determined by the Immigration Appellate Authority/Asylum and Immigration Tribunal[1, 2], excluding dependants, 2001 to September 2007, nationals of Iraq and Afghanistan*

*Principal appellants*

| | Appeals determined[3] | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Allowed[3] | | Dismissed[3] | | Withdrawn[3, 4] | |
| | Total determined[3] | Total | As percentage of determined | Total | As percentage of determined | Total | As percentage of determined |
| *Iraq* | | | | | | | |
| 2001 | 1,655 | 445 | 27 | 1,065 | 64 | 145 | 9 |
| 2002 | 4,570 | 1,130 | 25 | 2,970 | 65 | 470 | 10 |
| 2003 | 5,400 | 490 | 9 | 4,435 | 82 | 475 | 9 |
| 2004 | 6,645 | 275 | 4 | 6,210 | 93 | 160 | 2 |
| 2005 | 2,890 | 160 | 6 | 2,660 | 92 | 70 | 2 |
| 2006[5] | 760 | 105 | 14 | 610 | 81 | 40 | 5 |
| October 2006 to September 2007[5] | 1,130 | 235 | 21 | 830 | 73 | 65 | 6 |
| *Afghanistan* | | | | | | | |
| 2001 | 595 | 110 | 18 | 260 | 44 | 225 | 38 |
| 2002 | 2,040 | 230 | 11 | 1,235 | 60 | 580 | 28 |
| 2003 | 5,555 | 695 | 13 | 4,415 | 80 | 440 | 8 |
| 2004 | 3,075 | 325 | 11 | 2,590 | 84 | 160 | 5 |
| 2005 | 1,825 | 205 | 11 | 1,560 | 85 | 65 | 3 |
| 2006[5] | 1,255 | 135 | 11 | 1,055 | 84 | 60 | 5 |
| October 2006 to September 2007[5] | 1,390 | 190 | 14 | 1,120 | 81 | 80 | 6 |

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, except percentages (— = 0, * = 1 or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] The AIT was formed on 4 April 2005 and replaced the IAA. Data for 2005 exclude IAA cases for 1 April 2005. All determinations are cases dealt with by adjudicator/immigration judges. Determinations do not necessarily relate to appeals received within the same period.
[3] Before 2005: based on data supplied from the presenting officers unit within the Home Office. 2005 and 2006: data derived from Border and Immigration Agency electronic sources. Data for 2007 derived from AIT electronic sources.
[4] Figures include cases withdrawn by the Home Office, as well as those withdrawn by the appellant.
[5] Provisional figures.

## Closed Circuit Television

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1950W, on closed circuit television (CCTV), what the reasons are for the further delay in publishing the report on the future CCTV strategy; and when it will be published. [166901]

**Jacqui Smith:** The National CCTV Strategy was published on 19 October 2007 and is available for download from:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/cctv/cctv048.pdf

## Community Policing: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police constables and *(b)* sergeants have been dedicated to

neighbourhood policing work in (i) London and (ii) each London borough in each year since 2001. [166923]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Home Office's collection of police personnel data by function does not separately identify those dedicated to neighbourhood policing work.

### Community Support Officers: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there were in London on 1 October *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007. [169247]

**Mr. McNulty:** Police service strength is collected by financial year, with provisional data given midway through the year (30 September) and finalised data given as at the last day of the year (31 March).

Data for 31 March are given in the table.

*Police community support officer strength[1] in London[2] as at 31 March 2004 to 2007*

| *As at 31 March:* | *London PCSOs* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 1,463 |
| 2005 | 2,161 |
| 2006 | 2,326 |
| 2007 | 3,730 |

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals and the sums of constituent items.
[2] Metropolitan and City of London forces.

### Convictions: Human Trafficking

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been convicted for trafficking people into the UK in each of the last five years. [166984]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force in 2004. Since then convictions are as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 2004 | 3 |
| 2005 | 21 |
| 2006 | 27 |
| 2007 | 16 |

There have been no convictions to date for trafficking for exploitation under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004.

### Crime

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers per notifiable offence in England there were in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [167099]

**Mr. McNulty:** The data requested are given in the following table.

*Police officers (FTE)[1] per 100 notifiable offences[2] in England, 1997 to 2006-07*

| | *Police officers per 100 notifiable offences* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 2.7 |
| 1998-99 | 2.4 |
| 1999-2000 | 2.3 |
| 2000-01 | 2.4 |
| 2001-02 | 2.3 |
| 2002-03 | 2.2 |
| 2003-04 | 2.3 |
| 2004-05 | 2.5 |
| 2005-06 | 2.5 |
| 2006-07 | 2.6 |

[1] Police officer strength figures are based on full-time equivalent figures, excluding those officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.
[2] The data for 2002-03 onwards take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are therefore not directly comparable with those for earlier years; similarly, data from 1998-99 onwards incorporate changes in police recording practices following revisions to Home Office rules on counting and classification of crime in April 1998; they are also not directly comparable with previous years.

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non EU foreign nationals are employed by her Department. [168106]

**Mr. Byrne:** Information on the number of EU foreign nationals employed within Home Office headquarters is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. There are currently no non-EU foreign nationals employed within Home Office HQ.

The Identity and Passport Service currently employs 13 EU foreign nationals and 10 non-EU foreign nationals; all 10 are Commonwealth citizens.

The Criminal Records Bureau does not currently employ any EU or non-EU foreign nationals.

The Border and immigration Agency does not record centrally the nationality of employees upon appointment and information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. All candidates for posts within Home Office HQ and its agencies are subject to the same pre-appointment checks regardless of nationality. Our pre-appointment checks ensure that we only select those that pass eligibility in accordance with the Cabinet Office nationality requirements:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/careers/nationality_rules/index.asp

The need for an individual to undergo national security vetting, and the level of vetting that is appropriate, will depend on the particular post they are going to fill. Where necessary, this will include a check of time spent overseas.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the office costs for her Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected

to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164936]

**Mr. Byrne:** Three civil servants provide support directly to the special advisers in the Home Secretary's office. They provide administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Information on the cost of such staff can not be provided as the numbers involved will be so few that to reveal the cost could identify an individual's salary, which is confidential between the individual and the employer. Office costs will be accounted for in the 2007-08 departmental annual reports and accounts.

## Detection Rates

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate was in *(a)* each police force area and *(b)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [167097]

**Mr. McNulty:** The information requested is given in the following table.

*Detection rates for all recorded crimes, by police force area in England and Wales from 1997 to 2006-07*

*Percentage*

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1997-98*[1] | *1998-99*[2] | *1999-2000*[3] | *2000-01*[3] | *2001-02* | *2002-03*[4,5] | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 26 | 261 | 24 | 22 | 22 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 23 | 24 |
| Bedfordshire | 35 | 35 | 33 | 25 | 27 | 25 | 26 | 23 | 28 | 25 | 22 |
| British Transport Police | — | — | — | — | — | — | 15 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 24 |
| Cambridgeshire | 27 | 28 | 29 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 27 | 25 |
| Cheshire | 36 | 34 | 37 | 31 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 27 |
| Cleveland | 25 | 23 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 23 | 21 | 24 | 30 | 31 |
| Cumbria | 40 | 41 | 44 | 39 | 34 | 32 | 31 | 32 | 30 | 35 | 36 |
| Derbyshire | 25 | 26 | 31 | 28 | 26 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 28 | 27 | 26 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 32 | 34 | 36 | 35 | 34 | 32 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 28 | 27 |
| Dorset | 29 | 30 | 31 | 26 | 25 | 27 | 25 | 26 | 28 | 30 | 30 |
| Durham | 31 | 30 | 33 | 32 | 34 | 33 | 34 | 29 | 29 | 27 | 30 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 61 | 62 | 69 | 65 | 63 | 64 | 68 | 47 | 43 | 45 | 45 |
| Essex | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 27 | 31 | 33 |
| Gloucestershire | 24 | 26 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 27 | 32 | 33 |
| Greater Manchester | 20 | 20 | 25 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 25 | 25 |
| Gwent | 51 | 51 | 55 | 53 | 57 | 55 | 48 | 45 | 42 | 36 | 33 |
| Hampshire | 30 | 30 | 35 | 32 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 27 | 28 | 24 | 23 |
| Hertfordshire | 32 | 33 | 34 | 27 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 25 | 29 | 26 | 29 |
| Humberside | 20 | 21 | 22 | 19 | 21 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 20 | 23 | 25 |
| Kent | 31 | 31 | 34 | 33 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 25 | 23 | 26 | 26 |
| Lancashire | 29 | 29 | 34 | 29 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 30 | 32 | 35 |
| Leicestershire | 34 | 34 | 34 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 22 | 25 | 30 | 28 |
| Lincolnshire | 48 | 46 | 40 | 28 | 25 | 27 | 23 | 22 | 25 | 26 | 28 |
| London, City of | 26 | 28 | 33 | 32 | 27 | 34 | 36 | 33 | 36 | 43 | 39 |
| Merseyside | 31 | 31 | 31 | 26 | 28 | 24 | 25 | 27 | 30 | 28 | 29 |
| Metropolitan Police | 26 | 25 | 22 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 21 | 24 | 21 |
| Norfolk | 37 | 36 | 37 | 30 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 26 | 28 | 31 | 30 |
| Northamptonshire | 35 | 35 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 31 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 25 | 26 |
| Northumbria | 26 | 26 | 30 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 30 | 29 | 35 | 40 |
| North Wales | 34 | 36 | 43 | 36 | 31 | 28 | 29 | 33 | 42 | 43 | 48 |
| North Yorkshire | 26 | 26 | 33 | 31 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 35 | 35 | 33 |
| Nottinghamshire | 28 | 26 | 25 | 21 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 23 |
| South Wales | 36 | 36 | 39 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 26 | 25 |
| South Yorkshire | 29 | 32 | 32 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 21 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 26 |
| Staffordshire | 35 | 34 | 32 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 31 | 33 | 35 | 35 | 35 |
| Suffolk | 37 | 39 | 41 | 36 | 35 | 33 | 34 | 33 | 32 | 30 | 31 |
| Surrey | 33 | 35 | 40 | 32 | 28 | 25 | 22 | 22 | 26 | 25 | 30 |
| Sussex | 26 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 25 | 24 | 24 | 25 | 30 | 31 |
| Thames Valley | 24 | 25 | 25 | 20 | 22 | 24 | 25 | 23 | 26 | 28 | 25 |
| Warwickshire | 27 | 29 | 26 | 22 | 22 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 27 | 25 | 27 |
| West Mercia | 28 | 27 | 34 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 33 | 31 | 34 | 34 | 34 |
| West Midlands | 24 | 25 | 30 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 26 | 25 | 23 | 26 | 27 |
| West Yorkshire | 27 | 27 | 27 | 25 | 23 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 25 | 28 | 29 |

*Detection rates for all recorded crimes, by police force area in England and Wales from 1997 to 2006-07*

| *Police force area* | *1997* | *1997-98*[1] | *1998-99*[2] | *1999-2000*[2] | *2000-01*[3] | *2001-02* | *2002-03*[4,5] | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *Percentage 2006-07* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wiltshire | 32 | 32 | 38 | 33 | 30 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 32 | 26 |
| England and Wales total | 28 | 28 | 29 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 26 | 27 | 27 |

[1] The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the coverage and rules in use until 31 March 1998.
[2] The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.
[3] Revised detections guidance was implemented on 1 April 1999.
[4] The National crime Recording standard was Introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.
[5] Includes the British Transport Police from 2002-03 onwards.
*Note:*
The overall detection rate remained broadly stable between 2001-02 and 2003-04. It then rose to reach 27 per cent. in 2005-06 and 2006-07. However, the overall detection rate has been affected by forces limiting the usage of non-sanction detections i.e. where a crime is detected but no further action is taken for a variety of reasons.

## Entry Clearances

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 948W, on entry clearances, what methodology will be used to identify the location of applicants for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [168858]

**Mr. Byrne:** As explained in my response to the previous question on this matter, the Border and Immigration Agency is currently assessing what changes may be required to its data collection in order to make more tailored information available to its partners, including local authorities.

Integral to this phase is defining what methodology the agency will use to collect the relevant data. Analysis on this matter has only just commenced and further work is required before a defined approach can be established.

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many grants of the right to remain in the UK were issued to applicants who entered the UK as work permit holders in each year since 2000. [169292]

**Mr. Byrne:** Statistics are not available in the format requested.

The available information on grants of leave and indefinite leave to remain can be found in the yearly Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what legislation she may *(a)* deny entry to the UK to and *(b)* deport from the UK people whose presence is not conducive to the public good; on what occasions each power has been used in each year since 1990; and if she will make a statement. [169454]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Secretary of State may exercise a non-statutory personal power to deny a foreign national entry to the UK if she considers from all the evidence available that an individual's presence in the UK is not conducive to the public good and that such a decision is justified in her opinion.

The principal power to deport a person on the ground that their deportation would be conducive to the public good is contained in section 3(5) of the Immigration Act 1971 (as amended). There is a corresponding power in regulation 19 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 in respect of EEA nationals and the family members of EEA nationals.

Comprehensive figures on the use of these powers since 1990 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Extradition: USA

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on amending the terms of the extradition treaty between the US and UK; what assessment she has made of those representations; and if she will make a statement. [167020]

**Jacqui Smith:** Since 28 June the Home Office has handled 14 pieces of correspondence from hon. Members and members of the public on the subject of UK/US extradition arrangements. The hon. Gentleman himself also raised the issue with me in a recent meeting.

The representations supported inaccurate claims in the press that I was about to introduce an additional statutory bar to extradition called "forum" which could prevent extradition where a case could be tried in the UK.

The Government keep extradition legislation under review, but have no plans to introduce this additional bar, which would apply to all countries with which the UK has extradition relations, including the US. I am satisfied that the Extradition Act 2003 already contains full and effective safeguards for the rights of requested persons. Introducing a ground for refusal of extradition based on forum is not only unnecessary, but would make the Act operate in a manner that is inconsistent with all of the UK's bilateral extradition treaties—including the bilateral treaty between the UK and the US. It would also give rise to real practical difficulties for prosecutors and would risk allowing criminals to evade justice.

Home Office Ministers have consistently made it clear in Parliament and to the press that the new extradition treaty with the United States is not one-sided, and we are satisfied that the provisions ensure that extradition is dealt with under procedures that are as broadly comparable as it is possible to achieve between two different jurisdictions.

The UK/US extradition treaty means that both the UK and the US are under an international obligation to assist with extradition requests to the extent compatible with the law. The key issue is to ensure that offences are dealt with in the place where they can be most effectively prosecuted. Where the main witnesses and the main evidence are in another state, then it makes sense for the defendants to be extradited to face justice there.

Taking all these matters into account, I am satisfied that the right balance has been struck between the need to safeguard the rights of defendants against the need to uphold the rule of law.

### Firearms: Children

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to prevent children coming into possession of replica firearms, air rifles and BB guns. [166594]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 made it an offence for a person under the age of 18 to buy an imitation firearm (including a BB gun), and to sell an imitation firearm to a person aged under 18. The Act also increased the minimum age at which a young person may purchase or hire an air weapon, or possess an air weapon without adult supervision, to 18; it made it an offence to sell, hire or make a gift of an air weapon to a person under 18; and it required that all commercial sales of air weapons must be through registered firearms dealers.

This package of measures is designed to prevent children and young people gaining possession of such items.

The Act also outlawed the sale, manufacture or importation of realistic imitation firearms, applicable to people of any age.

### Fraud: Internet

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to help prevent internet fraud; and if she will make a statement. [169249]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government take all fraud seriously and believes that internet fraud is best prevented by raising the public's awareness of how they can be attacked online and advises them of how they can avoid their details and money being stolen.

To that end the Government support GetSafeOnline which is a joint Government and industry initiative which provides clear, accessible and up-to-date advice on the easy ways in which the public and small businesses can protect themselves and their PCs while using the internet.

### Frontiers: Security

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of *(a)* establishing and *(b)* running an e-borders system (i) excluding and (ii) including Northern Ireland. [168403]

**Mr. Byrne:** The costs to Government of establishing the e-Borders programme is £490 million, with further running costs of £596 million over the 10-year life of the current contract.

It is not possible to disaggregate the specific costs requested.

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when an e-borders system in Great Britain was first proposed. [168406]

**Mr. Byrne:** The vision of e-Borders, in the context of developing a new concept of screening passengers before they travel to the UK, was first proposed in the White Paper 'Secure Borders, Safe Haven' (CM 5387) published in February 2002.

### Genetics: Databases

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of replicated profiles on the National DNA Database; and how many of these are *(a)* multiple profiles of the same individual under (i) different and (ii) the same names, *(b)* identical twins or triplets and *(c)* adventitious matches between different individuals. [162366]

**Meg Hillier:** It is estimated that at 31 October 2007 there were approximately 646,890 replicate profiles from individuals on the National DNA Database. If a crime scene profile matches replicate profiles from individuals, a match report showing all the apparent individuals matched will be sent to the force. Thus the presence of these replicate profiles does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database. Nonetheless, a long term exercise is under way to identify issues associated with the removal of such redundant replicate profiles.

Of the 646,890 replicates, 107,966 are due to upgrading samples from the SGM to the SGM Plus method of analysing DNA. When the NDNAD was set up in 1995, the SM profiling system was used which looked at six areas of DNA plus the area sowing the person's sex. In 1999 SGM was replaced by SGM Plus which looks at 10 areas of DNA plus the sex area. SGM has a one in 50 million chance of being incorrect, and SGM Plus has a better than one in 1,000 million chance of being incorrect, when applied to the general population, though they are less discriminating between individuals who are related, or if matched against partial profiles from crime scenes i.e. where the DNA found at the crime scene is too degraded to look at all the relevant areas of DNA. It was decided when SGM Plus was introduced that it was too costly to reanalyse all the samples taken between 1995 and 1999 to upgrade them from SGM to SGM Plus. However, if a match occurs involving an SGM profile, or a partial

crime scene profile, the original samples are routinely reanalysed using SGM Plus to provide the best possible match. This may lead to the existence of both an SGM and an SGM Plus profile for the same person.

The information requested on the number of multiple profiles of the same individuals under different and the same names is not available. However, since July 2004 the NDNAD Custodian's Data Quality and Integrity Team has been carrying out a programme to analyse replicate profiles of the SGM Plus type that are shown on two or more Police National Computer records. This work is in support of police operations and is not an exhaustive review of all replicates. It has revealed 3,752 pairs of false/dual identities on PNC where the owning force has now merged the PNC records, and 3,327 pairs of identical twins and five sets of identical triplets on the NDNAD. A marker is entered on the Police National Computer to alert officers to the existence of these twins or triplets.

To date no adventitious matches between unrelated individuals have been discovered where the SGM Plus profiling system has been used.

### Hoaxes and False Alarms: Metropolitan Police

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of 999 calls received by the Metropolitan Police were hoaxes in each year since 1997. [166970]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not held centrally. This is a matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of the introduction of the EU anti-trafficking hotline on the level of human trafficking. [168310]

**Mr. Coaker:** We foresee some difficulties with a proposed EU anti-trafficking hotline, including issues relating to the management and dissemination of information received and language difficulties. The value of a hotline over and above national arrangements and existing structures would have to be demonstrated.

### Ibrahim Moussawi

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will deny entry to the UK to Ibrahim Moussawi; what recent representations she has received about this person; and if she will make a statement. [169455]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency is unable to comment on individual cases.

### Identity Cards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the likely cost of an identity card and passport package in 2007-08 prices. [164799]

**Meg Hillier:** It is expected that the full cost of Identity Services provided by the National Identity Scheme will be recovered through charges to individuals and to private and public user organisations. A detailed charging strategy is still to be fully developed, although it is intended that running costs of the scheme will be recovered from fees just as they are now for passports.

The previous best estimate for the average unit cost of the combined passport and ID card package was £93, based on 2005 prices. A figure at 2007-08 prices would be subject to increase, in line with the rate of inflation. Decisions on the actual fee structure will be made before the first identity cards are issued and so it is not possible to give a precise figure for the cost of an identity card and passport package at present.

### Illegal Immigrants: Employment

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual budget is for investigations into employers who give jobs to illegal immigrants. [169706]

**Mr. Byrne:** The cost of investigations into employers who give jobs to illegal immigrants is not disaggregated from the overall costs of the Border and Immigration Agency and therefore not readily available. Any attempt to calculate the cost of investigations into employers who give jobs to illegal immigrants would need to take into account a large number of factors and this could be done only at disproportionate cost. However the total public spending for the Border and Immigration Agency is set out in the published Home Office Report, a copy of which is available in the House Library and on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-07.

### Injuries

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths there were per 1,000 of the population from (i) traffic accidents, (ii) assaults and (iii) other violent crimes in each year since 1997. [167005]

**Mr. McNulty:** The recorded crime figures do not specify if any injuries or deaths are due to traffic accidents.

The available recorded crime data is given in the following table. Figures for wounding and homicide per 1,000 population have been provided. However, the figures given in the table are not directly comparable due to an expansion in the offence coverage in 1998-99 and the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002-03, both of which increased the amount of recorded crime significantly. These changes will have affected the calculations derived from the base figures.

*Number of offences per 1,000 population which resulted in wounding[1] and homicide*

| | *Wounding offences per 1,000 population* | *Homicides per 1,000 population* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997[2] | 4.6 | 0.014 |
| 1997-98[3] | 4.7 | 0.014 |
| 1998-99[4] | 4.0 | 0.014 |
| 1999-2000 | 4.2 | 0.015 |

*Number of offences per 1,000 population which resulted in wounding[1] and homicide*

| | *Wounding offences per 1,000 population* | *Homicides per 1,000 population* |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 4.1 | 0.016 |
| 2001-02 | 4.3 | 0.017 |
| 2002-03[5, 6] | 7.1 | 0.020 |
| 2003-04 | 8.7 | 0.017 |
| 2004-05 | 9.7 | 0.016 |
| 2005-06 | 10.2 | 0.014 |
| 2006-07 | 9.5 | 0.014 |

[1] Recorded offences of more serious wounding or other act endangering life and less serious wounding (including racially or religiously aggravated).
[2] Recorded crime statistics were collected on a calendar year basis up to 1998 and on a financial year basis thereafter.
[3] The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the coverage and rules in use until 31 March 1998.
[4] The number of offences recorded in that financial year using the expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.
[5] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.
[6] Includes the British Transport police from 2002-03 onwards.

## Litter: West Midlands

**Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers police have to take action against those caught *(a)* dropping litter and *(b)* fly-tipping; how many (i) prosecutions were brought and (ii) penalty notices were issued under each power in each of the local authority areas in the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [168862]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

Dropping litter is an offence under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, punishable by a fixed penalty fine, which can be set locally by a council within a range of £50 to £80, or prosecution (with a fine of up to £2,500 on conviction). Police community support officers, persons accredited under community accreditation schemes, parish councils and local authority authorised officers have enforcement powers, although responsibility rests primarily with the local authority.

Data on the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued and cases taken to court can be found on the DEFRA website at www.defra.gov.uk

The deposit of waste without a licence, or fly-tipping, is an offence under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The offence carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, an unlimited fine, or both. Due to the serious nature of fly-tipping, there is no FPN available. Local authorities must prosecute offenders through the courts.

Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, was set up in 2004 and records the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities. The database also records enforcement actions taken, including prosecutions.

Data are available from April 2004 onwards and are as follows:

| | *Fly-tipping prosecutions taken* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| Birmingham City Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Borough of Telford and Wrekin | 27 | 0 | 4 |
| Bridgnorth District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bromsgrove District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cannock Chase District Council | 0 | [1]— | 0 |
| Coventry City Council | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| East Staffordshire Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Herefordshire Council | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Lichfield District Council | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Malvern Hills District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| North Shropshire District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Warwickshire Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oswestry Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Redditch Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Rugby Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council | 0 | 4 | 13 |
| Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| South Shropshire District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Staffordshire District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stafford Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stoke-on-Trent City Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council | [1]— | [1]— | 0 |
| Tamworth Borough Council | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Warwick District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Local authority | Fly-tipping prosecutions taken 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wolverhampton City Council | 4 | 4 | 30 |
| Worcester City Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wychavon District Council | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Wyre Forest District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] No data.

### Passports: Proof of Identity

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she expects all the offices in the National Identity Scheme network serving first-time passport applicants to be operational by the end of 2007. [166092]

**Jacqui Smith:** Based on current estimates, the Identity and Passport Service is scheduled to roll out 62 of the interview office network by the end of 2007. The remaining seven are scheduled to open in early 2008.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether electronic data on deaths and naturalisation is used to check passport applications. [166093]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) currently runs automated checks for all passport applications against electronic records relating to infant deaths provided by the Office of National Statistics and the General Registry Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Passport applicants' naturalisation details are checked against electronic data from the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA). These checks commenced in December 2006. The link to BIA will be fully automated in 2008 to improve the efficiency of these checks.

An automated service to introduce identity and death checks against electronic data from the Department for Work and Pensions will be deployed in December 2007 and will be operational from February 2008.

### Police Custody: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police cells and *(b)* custody suites there are in each London borough. [169271]

**Mr. McNulty:** The provision of police custody accommodation in London boroughs is a matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

### Police Custody: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much the Border and Immigration Agency and its predecessor paid Suffolk police authority for use of its police cells in each of the last five years; [167907]

(2) how much the Border and Immigration Agency pays Suffolk police authority to use a police cell for a 24 hour period. [167908]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Border and Immigration Agency has paid Suffolk police authority the following amounts for use of police cells in each of the last four years. Data for 2002-03 the fifth year is not readily available because of change of computer system.

| | Amount (£) |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | n/a |
| 2003-04 | 430 |
| 2004-05 | 2,032 |
| 2005-06 | 1,117 |
| 2006-07 | 136 |

n/a = not available.

The Border and Immigration Agency pays Suffolk police authority incidental expenses at cost to use a police cell for a 24 hour period. These expenses include meal costs, interpreters and female staff as appropriate.

### Police: Cars

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police cars were in use in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166925]

**Mr. McNulty:** This information is not collected centrally as it is a matter for individual police forces.

### Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many SO19 officers are currently suspended from duty; and what percentage of the total SO19 squad those suspensions represent for each police force. [169246]

**Mr. McNulty:** Authorised firearms officers within the Metropolitan Police Service now serve within CO19 Specialist Firearms Command. Information is not collected centrally on the number of authorised firearms officers suspended from duty in police force areas.

### Police: Road Traffic Control

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of police funding for 2007-08 has been allocated to traffic policing in each police force area in England and Wales; how many dedicated traffic police officers there were in each police force area in each year since 1997; what percentage of the number of police officers these figures represent in each case; what recent discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on the number of dedicated traffic police officers; and if she will make a statement. [166881]

**Mr. McNulty:** Government funding for police authorities is chiefly allocated using a funding formula that provides an assessment of the relative need of each police force in England and Wales.

Funding for traffic policing is not separately identified. Decisions on the distribution of resources are matters for the Chief Officer and the police authority.

Such information as is available which has been provided by police forces to the Home Office is set out in the following tables. Information at force level prior to 2003 is not available.

*Police officers FTE whose main function is Traffic[1] 2003-07[2]*

*Full-time equivalents as at 31 March each year*

| | 2003 | | | 2004 | | | 2005 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of police officers used for traffic policing* | *Police strength as at 31 March 2003* | *% of overall police strength (as at 31 March 2003)* | *Number of police officers used for traffic policing* | *Police strength as at 31 March 2004* | *% of overall police strength (as at 31 March 2004)* | *Number of police officers used for traffic policing* | *Police strength as at 31 March 2005* | *% of overall police strength (as at 31 March 2005)* |
| Avon and Somerset | 216 | 3,149 | 6.8 | 222 | 3,401 | 6.5 | 228 | 3,384 | 6.7 |
| Bedfordshire | 75 | 1,106 | 6.8 | 80 | 1,181 | 6.8 | 80 | 1,215 | 6.6 |
| Cambridgeshire | 85 | 1,384 | 6.1 | 99 | 1,400 | 7.1 | 101 | 1,402 | 7.2 |
| Cheshire | 194 | 2,119 | 9.2 | 200 | 2,179 | 9.2 | 194 | 2,186 | 8.9 |
| Cleveland | 64 | 1,582 | 4.0 | 73 | 1,687 | 4.3 | 2 | 1,676 | 0.1 |
| Cumbria | 107 | 1,140 | 9.4 | 110 | 1,222 | 9.0 | 108 | 1,232 | 8.8 |
| Derbyshire | 107 | 2,003 | 5.3 | 121 | 2,070 | 5.8 | 116 | 2,070 | 5.6 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 192 | 3,202 | 6.0 | 198 | 3,298 | 6.0 | 211 | 3,369 | 6.3 |
| Dorset | 91 | 1,416 | 6.4 | 86 | 1,433 | 6.0 | 82 | 1,450 | 5.7 |
| Durham | 111 | 1,651 | 6.7 | 119 | 1,685 | 7.1 | 108 | 1,718 | 6.3 |
| Dyfed Powys | 136 | 1,149 | 11.8 | 105 | 1,167 | 9.0 | 141 | 1,174 | 12.0 |
| Essex | 241 | 2,989 | 8.1 | 242 | 3,098 | 7.8 | 243 | 3,190 | 7.6 |
| Gloucestershire | 62 | 1,227 | 5.0 | 66 | 1,284 | 5.1 | 67 | 1,291 | 5.2 |
| Greater Manchester | 406 | 7,343 | 5.5 | 392 | 8,042 | 4.9 | 359 | 8,041 | 4.5 |
| Gwent | 93 | 1,341 | 6.9 | 95 | 1,372 | 6.9 | 96 | 1,438 | 6.7 |
| Hampshire | 248 | 3,668 | 6.8 | 246 | 3,706 | 6.6 | 244 | 3,725 | 6.6 |
| Hertfordshire | 150 | 1,957 | 7.7 | 151 | 2,086 | 7.2 | 149 | 2,104 | 7.1 |
| Humberside | 123 | 2,105 | 5.8 | 119 | 2,213 | 5.4 | 225 | 2,230 | 10.1 |
| Kent | 104 | 3,487 | 3.0 | — | 3,576 | — | 122 | 3,586 | 3.4 |
| Lancashire | 198 | 3,339 | 5.9 | 187 | 3,550 | 5.3 | 190 | 3,551 | 5.4 |
| Leicestershire | 92 | 2,114 | 4.3 | 95 | 2,277 | 4.2 | 85 | 2,283 | 3.7 |
| Lincolnshire | 90 | 1,221 | 7.4 | 89 | 1,228 | 7.2 | 96 | 1,221 | 7.8 |
| London, City of | 24 | 808 | 3.0 | 24 | 853 | 2.8 | 28 | 876 | 3.2 |
| Merseyside | 125 | 4,099 | 3.0 | 119 | 4,122 | 2.9 | 115 | 4,317 | 2.7 |
| Metropolitan police | 583 | 27,984 | 2.1 | 592 | 29,735 | 2.0 | 1,029 | 30,710 | 3.4 |
| Norfolk | 120 | 1,499 | 8.0 | 121 | 1,510 | 8.0 | 107 | 1,544 | 6.9 |
| Northamptonshire | 70 | 1,210 | 5.8 | 71 | 1,239 | 5.7 | 65 | 1,267 | 5.2 |
| Northumbria | 245 | 3,943 | 6.2 | 253 | 4,040 | 6.3 | 165 | 4,048 | 4.1 |
| North Wales | 115 | 1,539 | 7.5 | 114 | 1,603 | 7.1 | 76 | 1,652 | 4.6 |
| North Yorkshire | 151 | 1,444 | 10.5 | 138 | 1,529 | 9.0 | 101 | 1,543 | 6.5 |
| Nottinghamshire | 26 | 2,411 | 1.1 | 121 | 2,484 | 4.9 | 133 | 2,502 | 5.3 |
| South Wales | 243 | 3,239 | 7.5 | 245 | 3,279 | 7.5 | 243 | 3,281 | 7.4 |
| South Yorkshire | 180 | 3,183 | 5.7 | 127 | 3,278 | 3.9 | 134 | 3,265 | 4.1 |
| Staffordshire | 50 | 2,202 | 2.3 | 49 | 2,266 | 2.2 | 58 | 2,280 | 2.5 |
| Suffolk | 68 | 1,253 | 5.4 | 72 | 1,304 | 5.5 | 76 | 1,313 | 5.8 |
| Surrey | 108 | 1,906 | 5.6 | 110 | 1,913 | 5.8 | 107 | 1,915 | 5.6 |
| Sussex | 164 | 2,989 | 5.5 | 163 | 3,039 | 5.4 | 163 | 3,044 | 5.4 |
| Thames Valley | 259 | 3,833 | 6.8 | 259 | 4,034 | 6.4 | 245 | 4,114 | 6.0 |
| Warwickshire | 103 | 997 | 10.3 | 103 | 1,008 | 10.2 | 93 | 1,011 | 9.2 |
| West Mercia | 292 | 2,256 | 13.0 | 115 | 2,355 | 4.9 | 117 | 2,367 | 4.9 |
| West Midlands | 384 | 7,751 | 5.0 | 405 | 7,887 | 5.1 | 393 | 8,056 | 4.9 |
| West Yorkshire | 320 | 5,029 | 6.4 | 314 | 5,275 | 6.0 | 317 | 5,631 | 5.6 |
| Wiltshire | 91 | 1,158 | 7.8 | 96 | 1,217 | 7.9 | 93 | 1,222 | 7.6 |
| Total | 6,902 | 131,426 | 5.3 | 6,706 | 137,128 | 4.9 | 7,104 | 139,495 | 5.1 |

| | Full-time equivalents as at 31 March each year | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2006 | | | 2007 | | |
| | Number of police officers used for traffic policing | Police strength as at 31 March 2006 | % of overall police strength (as at 31 March 2006) | Number of police officers used for traffic policing | Police strength as at 31 March 2007 | % of overall police strength (as at 31 March 2007) |
| Avon and Somerset | 215 | 3,389 | 6.3 | 148 | 3,375 | 4.4 |
| Bedfordshire | 81 | 1,198 | 6.7 | 68 | 1,185 | 5.7 |
| Cambridgeshire | 99 | 1,430 | 6.9 | 96 | 1,381 | 6.9 |
| Cheshire | 85 | 2,174 | 3.9 | 91 | 2,192 | 4.2 |
| Cleveland | 61 | 1,677 | 3.6 | 72 | 1,713 | 4.2 |
| Cumbria | 111 | 1,230 | 9.0 | 114 | 1,244 | 9.1 |
| Derbyshire | 119 | 2,046 | 5.8 | 110 | 2,023 | 5.4 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 215 | 3,493 | 6.1 | 225 | 3,476 | 6.5 |
| Dorset | 81 | 1,485 | 5.5 | 80 | 1,492 | 5.4 |
| Durham | 105 | 1,699 | 6.2 | 100 | 1,683 | 5.9 |
| Dyfed Powys | 243 | 1,182 | 20.5 | 136 | 1,177 | 11.6 |
| Essex | 73 | 3,279 | 2.2 | 231 | 3,297 | 7.0 |
| Gloucestershire | 342 | 1,289 | 26.5 | 67 | 1,303 | 5.2 |
| Greater Manchester | 240 | 7,959 | 3.0 | 352 | 7,887 | 4.5 |
| Gwent | 149 | 1,467 | 10.1 | 95 | 1,493 | 6.3 |
| Hampshire | 181 | 3,707 | 4.9 | 237 | 3,796 | 6.2 |
| Hertfordshire | 116 | 2,126 | 5.5 | 145 | 2,159 | 6.7 |
| Humberside | 197 | 2,224 | 8.8 | 100 | 2,227 | 4.5 |
| Kent | 77 | 3,599 | 2.1 | 109 | 3,664 | 3.0 |
| Lancashire | 102 | 3,583 | 2.8 | 184 | 3,566 | 5.1 |
| Leicestershire | 24 | 2,250 | 1.1 | 72 | 2,225 | 3.2 |
| Lincolnshire | 128 | 1,213 | 11.4 | 100 | 1,221 | 8.2 |
| London, City of | 603 | 869 | 69.4 | 23 | 854 | 2.7 |
| Merseyside | 112 | 4,269 | 2.6 | 150 | 4,413 | 3.4 |
| Metropolitan police | 63 | 30,536 | 0.2 | 611 | 30,710 | 2.0 |
| Norfolk | 167 | 1,557 | 10.7 | 110 | 1,565 | 7.0 |
| Northamptonshire | 97 | 1,317 | 7.4 | 63 | 1,281 | 4.9 |
| Northumbria | 134 | 3,983 | 3.4 | 172 | 3,917 | 4.4 |
| North Wales | 141 | 1,617 | 8.7 | 98 | 1,591 | 6.1 |
| North Yorkshire | 28 | 1,636 | 1.7 | 99 | 1,654 | 6.0 |
| Nottinghamshire | 80 | 2,477 | 3.2 | 139 | 2,410 | 5.8 |
| South Wales | 99 | 3,263 | 3.0 | 252 | 3,297 | 7.6 |
| South Yorkshire | 160 | 3,255 | 4.9 | 143 | 3,254 | 4.4 |
| Staffordshire | 236 | 2,272 | 10.4 | 35 | 2,288 | 1.5 |
| Suffolk | 97 | 1,300 | 7.5 | 77 | 1,342 | 5.7 |
| Surrey | 116 | 1,922 | 6.0 | 87 | 1,914 | 4.5 |
| Sussex | 401 | 3,092 | 13.0 | 169 | 3,077 | 5.5 |
| Thames Valley | 343 | 4,229 | 8.1 | 237 | 4,197 | 5.7 |
| Warwickshire | 13 | 1,032 | 1.3 | 93 | 1,059 | 8.8 |
| West Mercia | 143 | 2,351 | 6.1 | 129 | 2,400 | 5.4 |
| West Midlands | 102 | 8,097 | 1.3 | 383 | 8,173 | 4.7 |
| West Yorkshire | 81 | 5,644 | 1.4 | 324 | 5,655 | 5.7 |
| Wiltshire | 243 | 1,219 | 19.9 | 89 | 1,204 | 7.4 |
| Total | 6,511 | 139,633 | 4.7 | 6,412 | 140,032 | 4.6 |

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. This can result in substantial changes from year in year in certain forces, and may not fully reflect overall deployment. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. The does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.

[2] Data is unavailable at police force area level between 1997 and 2003.

*Source:*

Home Office

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average *(a)* number of police in and *(b)* proportion of each police force employed in speed enforcement on roads was in each of the last five years. [167007]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Home Office's collection of police personnel data by function does not separately identify those employed in speed enforcement.

### Police: Terrorism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were seconded from Essex police to the Metropolitan police for counter-terrorism duties in each of the last 48 months. [167430]

**Mr. McNulty:** Information collected centrally about the number of officers on secondment does not identify the force to which the officer is seconded.

### Proof of Identity: Aviation

**John Cummings:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what constitutes an official identity photo document for a British subject who does not hold a passport or driving licence when demanded by certain airline carriers operating internal UK flights. [166034]

**Meg Hillier:** The form of official identity photo documents required for domestic flights is a matter for individual airlines to define as there is no legal requirement to provide proof of identity for travel within the UK.

### Schools: Offensive Weapons

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding the Government has allocated for educational programmes in schools in 2007-08 aimed at tackling gun crime. [164757]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families will shortly be making available additional funding to accelerate the roll out of the extended schools programme in 12 local authorities where gun, gang and knife crime is most prevalent. This extra funding will be in addition to the £790 million given to local authorities during 2005-08 to fund the roll out of extended schools.

The Home Office also provides small grants to local community groups through the Connected Fund. Some of this work includes working with young people in schools on educational programmes on gun crime. In 2007-08, the Connected Fund has allocated a total of £500,000 to 100 local community projects.

### Security

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her written ministerial statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 45WS, on protective security, if she will provide a copy of Lord West's report to hon. and right hon. opposition Members. [166776]

**Mr. McNulty** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* No. As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary said in her written ministerial statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 45WS, we do not intend to publish the report because we do not wish in any way to compromise our security.

### Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the rollout of the Independent Sexual Violence Advisers scheme; and if she will make a statement. [168697]

**Mr. Coaker:** Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (and Independent Domestic Violence Advisers) are currently being independently evaluated by Cardiff University and Wolverhampton University. This evaluation is being funded by the Home Office. The evaluators are planning to produce an interim report in December and a final report next summer. The Government will make a decision on the continued roll out of these Advisers based on this evaluation.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) have been appointed since the commencement of the scheme; how many ISVAs remain in post; and in which areas they serve. [168698]

**Mr. Coaker:** In total, 38 Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) were appointed in 2006-07. The following table gives the locations and catchment areas of the ISVA services.

At the end of 2006-07, ISVA services were asked to complete an assessment which included details of the recruitment and retention of ISVAs. As a result of this exercise, as far as we are aware all the ISVAs funded have remained in post.

| *Location of service* | *Catchment area* |
|---|---|
| Essex | South Essex |
| Derbyshire | Derbyshire |
| Nottingham | North Nottinghamshire and Nottingham |
| London (Camberwell) | Bexley, Bromley, Croydon, Greenwich, Kingston, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Richmond, Southwark, Sutton, Wandsworth |
| London (Paddington) | Hounslow, Heathrow Airport, Hillingdon, Ealing, Harrow, Brent, Barnet, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, City of Westminster and Camden and Islington |
| London (Whitechapel) | North East London |
| London (Hackney) | Pan-London |
| West London | Westminster, Greenwich |
| London (Croydon) | Croydon, Bromley and Sutton |
| Middlesbrough | Hartlepool and Stockton |
| Redcar and Cleveland | Redcar and Cleveland |
| Merseyside | Wirral, Liverpool and parts of Lancashire and Wales |
| Cheshire and Merseyside | County of Cheshire |
| Merseyside | Metropolitan boroughs Knowsley and St. Helens |
| Manchester | Greater Manchester police force area |
| Preston | Lancashire |
| Liverpool | Liverpool |
| Blackburn and Darwen | Blackburn with Darwen district |
| Southampton | Southampton city |
| Aylesbury Vale | Buckinghamshire |

| Location of service | Catchment area |
|---|---|
| Cornwall | Cornwall (Caradon, North Cornwall and Restormel) |
| Swindon | County of Wiltshire and the borough of Shrivenham |
| Plymouth | City of Plymouth and surrounding 30 mile radius |
| Gwent | Gwent |
| Merthyr Tydfil | Wales |
| Cardiff | Cardiff and the Vale |
| Hanley | North Staffordshire (Stoke on Trent, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands) |
| Coventry | Coventry City |
| Warwick | South Warwickshire |
| Worcestershire | County of Worcestershire |
| Warwickshire | Rugby Warwickshire and Coventry |
| Walsall | Western side of West Midlands |
| Birmingham | Birmingham |
| Huddersfield | Kirklees North and South, Calderdale |
| Barnsley | Barnsley borough |
| Doncaster | Doncaster and Rotherham |
| Grimsby and Scunthorpe | North East Lincolnshire |
| Leeds | Leeds |

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much of her Department's budget has been spent or committed on the Independent Sexual Violence Advisers scheme in the 2007-08 financial year; and how much has been budgeted for the scheme for the 2008-09 financial year. [168699]

**Mr. Coaker:** Following the £760,000 funding provided to develop 38 Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) services in 2006-07, the Government committed a further £760,000 in 2007-08 to sustain these services. In addition to this, just over £85,000 was allocated for accredited training for the role.

Budgets for 2008-09 are currently being worked up.

### Terrorism

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department are assigned to the monitoring and investigation of cults associated with terrorism; and if she will make a statement. [168885]

**Mr. McNulty:** The monitoring and investigation of groups concerned in terrorism are operational matters for the Security Service and the police. It would be inappropriate for me to comment further.

### Terrorism: Essex

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by each authority in Essex on combating terrorism in the borough in each of the last two years for which information is available. [167426]

**Mr. McNulty:** The Home Office does not hold information relating to spending by each authority in Essex on combating terrorism.

### Terrorism: Victims

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were (i) killed and (ii) injured in terrorist attacks in the UK in each year since 1990, broken down by age group. [167427]

**Mr. McNulty:** Available information on persons killed relates to homicides recorded by police in England and Wales where the circumstance was 'attributed to acts of terrorism'. Data for the period 1990 to 2005-06 are shown in the following tables. The figures do not include the deaths of alleged suspects who die during terrorist activity.

Injuries inflicted as a result of terrorist activity in England and Wales cannot be separately identified from the recorded crime datasets held by the Home Office. However, the Official Report into the 7 July London bombings states that an additional 700 persons were injured in the four attacks.

Statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland are a matter for the respective Secretaries of State.

*Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where apparent circumstance is 'attributed to acts of terrorism', England and Wales 1990 to 2005-06[2,3]*

*Recorded crime*

| Victim gender and age grouping | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Female* | | | | | | | | |
| Under 1 year | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 and under 5 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 and under 16 years | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 16 and under 30 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 30 and under 50 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 50 and under 70 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 70 years and over | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Age unknown | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| *Male* | | | | | | | | |
| Under 1 year | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 and under 5 years | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |

*Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where apparent circumstance is 'attributed to acts of terrorism', England and Wales 1990 to 2005-06[2,3]*

*Recorded crime*

| *Victim gender and age grouping* | *1990* | *1991* | *1992* | *1993* | *1994* | *1995* | *1996* | *1997* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 and under 16 years | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 16 and under 30 years | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 30 and under 50 years | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| 50 and under 70 years | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 70 years and over | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Age unknown | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | — | — | 2 | — |

*Recorded crime*

| *Victim gender and age grouping* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06[4]* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Female* | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 1 year | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| 1 and under 5 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 and under 16 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 16 and under 30 years | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 11 |
| 30 and under 50 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 12 |
| 50 and under 70 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| 70 years and over | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Age unknown | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 28 |
| *Male* | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 1 year | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| 1 and under 5 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 and under 16 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 16 and under 30 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 10 |
| 30 and under 50 years | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| 50 and under 70 years | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| 70 years and over | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Age unknown | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 24 |

[1] As at 9 October 2006; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[3] Data for 2006-07 are not yet available.
[4] Each of the terrorist-related homicides recorded in 2005-06 relate to the 7 July London bombings.
*Source:*
Homicide Index (Home Office).

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Crime: Offensive Weapons

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of crimes involving knives were reported in Belfast, North constituency in each year since 2002. [168487]

**Paul Goggins:** The number of incidents of crimes involving knives in North Belfast District Command Unit in each year since 2002 is as follows:

| | *Number of incidents* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 135 |
| 2003-04 | 112 |
| 2004-05 | 141 |
| 2005-06 | 173 |
| 2006-07 | 127 |

In addition to raising the age at which knives can be purchased from 16 to 18 years of age, I have recently published proposals to toughen the laws on knife crime in Northern Ireland. The proposed changes will double the penalties for a series of knife crimes including possession, manufacture and sales offences and are part of the draft proposed Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2007 published for consultation on 8 November.

### Criminal Justice Order

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the reasons are for the date at which the draft Criminal Justice Order will come into force. [168537]

**Paul Goggins:** Under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, a draft of a proposed Order-in-Council must be laid before Parliament for a period of 60 parliamentary sitting days. The proposed draft Criminal Justice Order

was published on 8 November 2007 for consultation with a closing date of 31 January 2008. Following consideration of the representations made, the draft Order will then be laid for debate in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary approval of the draft Order, commencement will be staged with priority being given to the sentencing powers dealing with dangerous sexual and violent offenders. If Parliament approves the Order, it is my intention that these priority powers will come into operation within weeks of that approval.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168601]

**Mr. Woodward:** There have been no computers owned by the NIO stolen in 2007. However, two NIO laptops were stolen during this year, with an estimated value of £1,000 each.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if his Department will undertake a review of its compliance with data protection laws; [168077]

(2) on how many occasions in his Department confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs, before its transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168260]

(3) how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disk; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of his Department has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases was. [168287]

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168741]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168818]

(2) how many breaches of data protection security there were in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168829]

**Paul Goggins:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of staff in the Northern Ireland Office are *(a)* Northern Ireland civil servants and *(b)* Home Office civil servants, broken down by grade. [168486]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following table shows the breakdown of staff in the Northern Ireland Office by *(a)* Northern Ireland civil servants and *(b)* Home Office civil servants, broken down by grade.

| | *NICS* | *HCS* |
|---|---|---|
| SCS | 31 | 19 |
| Grade A | 178 | 23 |
| Grade B1 | 265 | 12 |
| Grade B2 | 232 | 38 |
| Grade C | 440 | 30 |
| Grade D1 | 577 | 22 |
| Grade D2 | 258 | 20 |
| Industrial | 31 | — |
| Total | 2,012 | 164 |

### Domestic Violence: Convictions

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of domestic violence offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; and what the penalty imposed in each case was. [166211]

**Paul Goggins:** At present specific information on domestic assaults is not included in court conviction and sentencing data. It is not possible, therefore, to separate domestic violence from other violent offences.

It is, however, possible to give the number convicted of offences which, by their definition, relate to domestic violence. Specifically these are: 'breach of non-molestation order'; 'breach of occupation order'; and 'breach of exclusion requirement'. Conviction and sentencing data for these offences are documented in Tables 1-3.

A wider range of information on the incidence and impact of domestic violence is available from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey and from PSNI statistics. PSNI statistics from 2005-06 to 2006-07 report a 6.1 per cent. decrease in the number of domestic crimes recorded and further details are available at:

http://www.psni.police.uk/2._domestic_incidents_and_crimes-3.pdf

I have placed a copy of the latest available statistical bulletin on domestic violence from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey in the Library of the House.

Data in the following tables cover the calendar years 2000 to 2005 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

*Table 1: Disposals given to those convicted for 'breach of non-molestation order' 2000-05*

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003[1] | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Immediate custody | 35 | 20 | 17 | 22 | 24 | 24 |
| (Average sentence length—months) | (2.0) | (2.2) | (2.1) | (3.0) | (2.4) | (1.9) |
| Suspended custody | 26 | 51 | 45 | 41 | 39 | 59 |
| Supervision in the community | 19 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 23 | 17 |
| Fine | 60 | 55 | 76 | 75 | 86 | 89 |
| Conditional discharge | 31 | 65 | 70 | 77 | 70 | 56 |
| Other | 17 | 13 | 15 | 12 | 13 | 8 |
| Total number of convictions | 188 | 219 | 236 | 239 | 255 | 253 |

[1] Average sentence length in 2003 excludes one sentenced to juvenile justice centre order

*Table 2: Disposals given to those convicted for 'breach of occupation order' 2000-05*

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Immediate custody | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| (Average sentence length—months) | (3.0) | (2.3) | (1.3) | (1.3) | (1.5) | (1.7) |
| Suspended custody | 2 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| Supervision in the community | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Fine | 7 | 7 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 10 |
| Conditional discharge | 10 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 5 |
| Other | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Total number of convictions | 26 | 34 | 48 | 36 | 37 | 25 |

*Table 3: Disposals given to those convicted for 'breach of exclusion requirement' 2000-05*

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Conditional discharge | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total number of convictions | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## Driving Under Influence

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what research he has commissioned on lowering the permitted alcohol limit for drink drive offences in Northern Ireland. [170455]

**Paul Goggins:** The permitted alcohol limit for drink drive offences in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter and is the responsibility of the Minister of the Environment in the Northern Ireland Executive.

## Homicide: Elderly

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many elderly persons have been murdered in their homes in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998; and how many persons have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of such murders. [168539]

**Paul Goggins:** The number of elderly persons murdered in their homes in Northern Ireland for each year since 2001 is set out in the following table.

The table also sets out the number of murders cleared, and the number cleared by means of a charge or summons.

It is not possible to supply data for the first three years requested as the exact location of murders was not recorded prior to 2001. Since the recorded figures for convictions do not record details of victims, it is not possible to provide data on the number of convictions.

| | Number of murders recorded | Number of murders cleared | Number of murders cleared by means of charge/ summons |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 2002-03 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2003-04 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2005-06 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006-07 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many illegal immigrants were discovered working for his Department in the last year for which figures are available. [170478]

**Paul Goggins:** No illegal immigrants have been discovered working in the Northern Ireland Office.

### Northern Ireland Act 1998

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will review the effectiveness of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998; and if he will make a statement. [168538]

**Mr. Woodward:** In accordance with schedule 9 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland recently conducted a major review of the effectiveness of the duties imposed by section 75 of the 1998 Act. This involved independent research and widespread engagement across the public, voluntary and community sectors.

A final report setting out the Commission's recommendations for enhanced effectiveness of section 75 implementation will be published shortly.

### Orange Order: Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attacks were made on Orange halls in each constituency in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998. [168488]

**Paul Goggins:** PSNI has advised statistics in relation to recorded criminal damage offences involving an Orange Hall are only available from 2001-02 and are collated by District Command Unit rather than constituency. These are shown in the following table.

*Criminal damage offences recorded where the location of the offence is an Orange Hall 2001-02—2006-07*

| | Recorded | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *DCU* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| Antrim | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Ards | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| East Belfast | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Belfast | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| South Belfast | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| West Belfast | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Carrickfergus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Castlereagh | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Down | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Lisburn | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Newtownabbey | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| North Down | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Urban region | 14 | 10 | 11 | 6 | 12 | 8 |
| Armagh | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Ballymena | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Ballymoney | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Banbridge | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Coleraine | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Cookstown | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Craigavon | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Dungannon | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Fermanagh | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Foyle | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Lame | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Limavady | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Magherafelt | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 9 |
| Moyle | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newry and Mourne | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Omagh | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| Strabane | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Rural region | 32 | 23 | 27 | 26 | 28 | 45 |
| Total | 46 | 33 | 38 | 32 | 40 | 53 |

*Note:*
These figures are provisional and may be subject to revision.
*Source:*
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of attacks on Orange halls in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998. [168489]

**Paul Goggins:** PSNI has advised that statistics in relation to those charged with criminal damage offences involving an Orange Hall are only available from 2001-02. The table details these statistics.

The information requested in relation to convictions of those charged would necessitate a manual trawl through files across Departments and police districts which would incur a disproportionate cost.

*Criminal damage offences recorded and cleared where the location of the offence is an Orange Hall*

| | *Number of criminal damage offences cleared by means of charge/summons* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 0 |
| 2002-03 | 1 |
| 2003-04 | 0 |
| 2004-05 | 0 |
| 2005-06 | 1 |
| 2006-07 | 0 |

*Note:*
These figures are provisional and may be subject to revision.
*Source:*
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

### Police Service of Northern Ireland: Religion

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of *(a)* applicants and *(b)* appointees to the Police Service of Northern Ireland were (i) Protestant, (ii) Roman Catholic and (iii) of non-determined religion in each of the last four years. [168000]

**Paul Goggins:** I am advised that as of 23 November 2007, the number of people in each category of applicants and appointees in each of the last four years is as; follows:

| | *Protestant* | | *Catholic* | | *Not determined* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* | *Number* | *Percentage* |
| *Applicants* | | | | | | |
| 2004 | 6,713 | 62.90 | 3,691 | 34.59 | 268 | 2.51 |
| 2005 | 8,456 | 61.29 | 4,909 | 35.58 | 431 | 3.12 |
| 2006 | 9,152 | 58.69 | 5,953 | 38.18 | 488 | 3.13 |
| 2007 | 3,819 | 51.28 | 3,310 | 44.45 | 318 | 4.27 |
| *Appointees* | | | | | | |
| 2004 | 303 | 50.67 | 290 | 48.49 | 5 | 0.84 |
| 2005 | 218 | 48.55 | 227 | 50.56 | 4 | 0.89 |
| 2006 | 200 | 49.26 | 202 | 49.75 | 4 | 0.99 |
| 2007 | 177 | 48.36 | 187 | 51.09 | 2 | 0.55 |

Only one recruitment competition was held in 2007, hence the reduction in the number of applicants. In previous years, two competitions were held.

The reason the percentages quoted for Catholic and non-Catholic appointees are not exactly 50:50 when represented in this way, is that the 50:50 provisions are applied to each recruitment competition and not to each calendar year.

### Police Service of Northern Ireland: Training

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by the Police Service of Northern Ireland on equality and human rights training in each financial year since 2002-03; and what percentage this represented of the total training budget. [168534]

**Paul Goggins:** Human Rights and Diversity training has been embedded across all aspects of the PSNI training programme. For example, all lessons delivered within the college would have been audited for human rights compliance and officers involved in firearms training would also receive twice yearly training on human rights. Therefore, a breakdown of costs for individual aspects of training courses is not readily accessible. To collate the figures would require a manual trawl of records and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Sexual Offences: Prisoners Release

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many sex offenders were released on licence under Article 26 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 in each year since the legislation came into operation; and how many were *(a)* fined and *(b)* recalled to prison for breach of their licence conditions under Article 27 of that Order in each year. [168490]

**Paul Goggins:** The information requested is set out in the following table. The first year that people were released under Article 26 was 2000.

| | Released on licence (Article 26) | Breach of licence | Recall to custody | Fine |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 3 | 0 | — | — |
| 2001 | 3 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 2002 | 6 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 2003 | 9 | 0 | — | — |
| 2004 | 14 | 0 | — | — |
| 2005 | 11 | 0 | — | — |
| 2006 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

## WALES

### Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170176]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office have mail service contracts with Royal Mail and Government Car and Despatch Agency.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans his Department has to review the practices involved in transporting data; whether his Department *(a)* uses and *(b)* plans to continue to use TNT to transport data; and what plans it has to put the transportation of confidential data out to tender. [169382]

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170243]

**Mr. Hain:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's and its agencies' corporate identity; and what the estimated cost of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines is. [170224]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office does not issue staff guidelines on corporate identity and subsequently does not incur costs against this.

Advice is provided on a case-by-case basis by the Communications team as and when necessary.

### Education: Wrexham

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many students entered *(a)* further education and *(b)* higher education in each ward in Wrexham in the last 10 years. [168898]

**Mr. Hain:** The following table shows data available from the Health Education Statistics Agency illustrating Wrexham domiciled first year undergraduate and further education enrolments at UK higher education institutions by level of study and electoral ward. These are derived from unitary local authority returns. These do not provide comparisons over the period requested, but only since 2003, and currently until 2005-06.

*Wrexham domiciled first year undergraduate and further education enrolments at UK higher education institutions, by level of study and electoral ward*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Higher Education* | | | |
| Acton | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Borras Park | 30 | 20 | 25 |
| Bronington | 35 | 30 | 30 |
| Brymbo | 15 | 25 | 20 |
| Bryn Cefn | 15 | 20 | 20 |
| Brynyffynnon | 25 | 35 | 35 |
| Cartrefle | 15 | 10 | 15 |
| Cefn | 35 | 35 | 40 |
| Chirk North | 20 | 10 | 25 |
| Chirk South | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Coedpoeth | 45 | 50 | 45 |
| Dyffryn Ceiriog/Ceiriog Valley | 30 | 25 | 25 |
| Erddig | 30 | 35 | 35 |
| Esclusham | 25 | 20 | 20 |
| Garden Village | 20 | 25 | 35 |
| Gresford East and West | 25 | 30 | 30 |
| Grosvenor | 30 | 30 | 35 |
| Gwenfro | 5 | 5 | 15 |
| Gwersyllt East and South | 30 | 30 | 25 |
| Gwersyllt North | 25 | 20 | 15 |
| Gwersyllt West | 30 | 30 | 25 |
| Hermitage | 30 | 25 | 5 |
| Holt | 35 | 40 | 40 |
| Johnstown | 35 | 20 | 30 |
| Little Acton | 20 | 35 | 25 |
| Llanfynydd | * | * | 5 |
| Llangollen | * | * | * |
| Llangollen Rural | 20 | 15 | 20 |
| Llay | 40 | 40 | 30 |
| Maesydre | 20 | 15 | 30 |
| Marchwiel | 35 | 20 | 40 |
| Marford and Hoseley | 35 | 40 | 40 |
| Minera | 20 | 25 | 30 |
| New Broughton | 20 | 35 | 30 |
| Offa | 30 | 30 | 40 |
| Overton | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Pant | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Penycae | 15 | 20 | 10 |

*Wrexham domiciled first year undergraduate and further education enrolments at UK higher education institutions, by level of study and electoral ward*

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Penycae and Ruabon South | 25 | 25 | 20 |
| Plas Madoc | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| Ponciau | 50 | 35 | 50 |
| Queensway | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| Rhosnesni | 40 | 45 | 35 |
| Rossett | 40 | 40 | 35 |
| Ruabon | 25 | 30 | 15 |
| Smithfield | 25 | 20 | 25 |
| Stansty | 25 | 15 | 25 |
| Whitegate | 30 | 30 | 25 |
| Wynnstay | 5 | 10 | 10 |
| Wrexham UA[1] | 1,190 | 1,200 | 1,260 |
| Further Education[2] | — | — | — |
| Wrexham UA[1] | 105 | 70 | 70 |

[1] Includes electoral ward unknown.
[2] Ward level data not given for further education due to small numbers.
*Notes:*
1. As at 1 December. Figures rounded to the nearest 5, figures less than 3 represented by "*".
2. Data item unavailable is represented by "—".
3. Comparisons with years prior to 1998-99 should be treated with care due to changes in FE students covered by Student Record.
4. The table presents counts of first year enrolments and will include some students who have studied at this level previously.
*Source:*
HESA Student Record.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for his Department in the last year for which figures are available. [170476]

**Mr. Hain:** None.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Prime Minister what the expected salary level of the Prime Minister's independent adviser on ministerial interests will be in the year commencing 1 January 2008. [170475]

**The Prime Minister:** The independent adviser on Ministers' interests will publish an annual report, which will include information relating to his appointment and role.

### Ministry of Defence

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) when he last visited the Ministry of Defence's permanent joint headquarters; [169988]

(2) when he last visited the Ministry of Defence main building; and for what purposes. [169989]

**The Prime Minister:** I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and officials on a wide range of subjects, including within the Ministry of Defence.

### Transport

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Prime Minister how many times he has met individuals representing *(a)* rail passengers, *(b)* the rail industry, *(c)* bus passengers, *(d)* bus companies, *(e)* coach passengers, *(f)* coach companies and *(g)* cyclists since he became Prime Minister. [170735]

**The Prime Minister:** My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what terms of reference have been adopted for the review of the operation of the Licensing Act 2003; and when the review is expected to conclude. [167978]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Prior to the introduction of the Act on 24 November 2005, Ministers committed to evaluate the impact of the Act after sufficient evidence became available. This will review progress in achieving the aims of the reform and the impact of the Act on the four statutory licensing objectives: (the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of public nuisance; and the protection of children from harm).

The evaluation will also consider the level of administrative burdens placed on business by the Act measured against a May 2005 baseline; the impact of the Act on the provision of live music; and the efficiency of various processes in the Act. A key element of the review will be the assessment of the impact of reform on crime and disorder which is being carried out by the Home Office.

The review brings together the various outputs and conclusions from a number of studies about whether any changes are necessary to: *(a)* statutory Guidance produced under section 182 of the Act; *(b)* regulations made under the Act; and *(c)* the primary legislation itself.

The studies are described as follows:

Scrutiny Councils Initiative;

Review of Statutory Guidance;

DCMS Simplification Plan;

Independent Fees Panel Report;

Live Music Forum Report;

National Statistics licensing data bulletin;

Analysis of actual on-trade closing hours;

Home Office Study into impact on Crime and Disorder.

We expect to conclude this work in the new year once the Home Office crime and disorder evaluation is published.

### Arts Council of England: Finance

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to his Department's press release of 12 October, how much funding the Arts Council England will receive from the comprehensive spending review settlement in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms until 2011. [168557]

**James Purnell:** Over the next three years Arts Council England will receive the following revenue Grant in Aid:

| | *Revenue GIA (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 428.955 |
| 2009-10 | 443.455 |
| 2010-11 | 466.955 |

In real terms, the figures in 2007-08 prices would be:

| | *Real terms (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 417.678 |
| 2009-10 | 420.456 |
| 2010-11 | 431.088 |

### British Film Council: Ministerial Powers

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on his oversight role under the Royal Charter establishing the British Film Council. [169366]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Secretary of State has oversight of the work of the British Film Institute through his Department's sponsorship of the UK Film Council.

The only reference to the Secretary of State in the British Film Institute Royal Charter (as amended and in effect from 19 April 2000) relates to the appointment of the chairman, who shall be appointed, with the approval of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, by the Film Council.

### British Film Institute: Public Appointments

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will ensure that the British Film Council publishes the short-list of candidates to be chair of the British Film Institute prior to his approving the Film Council's choice. [169365]

**Margaret Hodge:** No. Publication of the shortlist would breach individuals' rights to confidentiality. The UK Film Council has responsibility for appointing the chair of the British Film Institute and will ensure a fair and open competition. The Secretary of State must formally approve the appointment.

### Broadcasting: Emergencies

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on their ability to waive licence fees and vary rules with regard to broadcasting in times of emergencies; and if he will make a statement. [169992]

**James Purnell:** None. The planning, licensing and regulation of radio (except BBC) is a matter for the independent regulator Ofcom.

### Crimes of Violence

**Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consultation took place on the Guidance on Expedited Licence Reviews under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 before it came into force. [166200]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport produced non-statutory guidance to assist police forces and licensing authorities when considering using the provisions inserted at section 53A of the 2003 Act by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. Members of the Department's stakeholder advisory group on licensing, which includes representatives of local authorities, the police and the licensed trade, were given an opportunity to comment on a draft of the guidance before it was finalised.

### Cutty Sark: Finance

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been provided for the project to restore the Cutty Sark from *(a)* Government funds and *(b)* lottery funding. [169007]

**Margaret Hodge:** Between 1996 and 2006, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded five grants totalling £13,457,216 to the project to restore the Cutty Sark. These were (1) £160,000 for urgent repairs (1996); (2) £48,216 towards a conservation plan (1997); (3) £198,000 for restoration of the Mizzen Mast (1998); (4) £50,000 towards phase one of the preservation project (2003); and £13,001,000 towards the conservation project (including £1,251,000 of development funding) (2006). Government do not directly fund such projects.

### Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170163]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has contracts for the provision of mail services with Pitney Bowes, the Government Car and Despatch Service and the Royal Mail.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168599]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department has not had any laptops or computers stolen in 2007.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were

responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167381]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** DCMS takes very seriously its responsibility for responding to inquiries from members of the public. The Department does not hold the information requested in the format required, and to provide it in this format would incur disproportionate cost.

For the period 1 January 2007 to 23 October 2007, 90.58 per cent. of our responses to members of the public (8,624 of 9,521 cases) were answered within 20 working days and we aim to answer as high a percentage as possible within a significantly shorter timeframe. Additionally, 74.35 per cent. of responses to letters from MPs and Peers were answered within 20 working days for the same time period.

**Departmental Data Protection**

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws; [168085]

(2) on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168251]

(3) how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) his Department and (ii) his Department's agency has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168271]

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168479]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168819]

(2) how many breaches of data protection security there were in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's Agency in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168830]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168751]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My Department gained accreditation last year for part one (documentation) of BS7799 and is fully compliant with part two (processes) of the standard.

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many requests his Department received from the National Audit Office for access to databases containing personal information on members of the general public in each year since 1997; [168971]

(2) how many times databases held by his Department and containing personal information on members of the general public were accessed in each month of the last five years; [168973]

(3) how many security breaches regarding access to personal data occurred within his Department in each year since 1997; [168975]

(4) when each electronic database held by his Department containing personal information on members of the general public was first created; [168976]

(5) how many electronic databases held by his Department contain *(a)* names, *(b)* addresses, *(c)* bank details and *(d)* other personal information on members of the general public. [168977]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 requiring investigation there have been in the last five years in his Department; what the nature of such breaches were; and what the results of the investigations were in each case. [169259]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. friend the Prime Minister on 21 November, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168111]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is currently employing one EU foreign national and one non EU foreign national.

### Departmental Land

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what land surplus to his Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168845]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is in the process of selling 3.6 acres of surplus land to the "North of the British Library".

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies. [165235]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department has 0.5 full-time equivalent staff responsible for brand management and marketing.

DCMS publish a set of brand guidelines which stipulate clear rules about how the DCMS brand should be presented in various visual formats and we insist that our rostered design agencies abide by these guidelines.

We also manage and approve requests from independent and partnership organisations that are working with DCMS and require a joint branding.

The objectives of the DCMS brand are to ensure the visual consistency across printed and digital media to enable a better understanding of the Department's objectives and responsibilities, and raise its profile amongst its diverse audiences which include internal stakeholders, the general public and sponsored bodies.

With regard to its agencies, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167309]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department has not spent money on staff working on marketing and branding in the last 12 month period.

Information on the Department's agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167960]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department has spent the following on advertising in the last 12 months.

"London 2012: Ask the team" Birmingham event, 25 June 2007—adverts in four local newspapers: £2,639.

"London 2012: Ask the team" London event, 11 October 2007—adverts in three local newspapers: £5,186.

### Digital Broadcasting: Salisbury

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward from 2012 the proposed start of digital broadcasting from the Salisbury transmitter. [169288]

**James Purnell:** The timetable for digital switchover, announced by my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) in 2005, was the result of a great deal of work conducted by spectrum planners, working alongside the broadcasters, Ofcom and Digital UK.

The order in which transmitters would cease broadcasting in analogue, and begin transmitting high power digital signals, was determined primarily by the following technical criteria:

- The need to co-ordinate frequency use with neighbouring countries;
- The desire to avoid interference with maintained analogue services in one region while converting another;
- The time needed in order to convert all 1,154 transmitters, a process requiring a great deal of equipment and highly specialised engineers.

It is therefore extremely difficult to bring forward (or delay) the switchover date for one particular transmitter without a very compelling reason.

### East of England Development Agency: Tourism

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what he estimates will be the level of funding for the East of England Development Agency for the purposes of tourism for

2008-09; what proportion this represents of his Department's expenditure on tourism in that year; and if he will make a statement. [166974]

**Margaret Hodge:** Funding for regional development agencies (RDAs) is not ring-fenced for particular purposes. In 2008-09, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will provide a contribution of £3.5 million towards the funding of the eight RDAs outside London. Total funding for the RDAs will be £2.2 billion (distributed through the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) of which the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) will receive £132 million. EEDA allocated £1.34 million for supporting tourism in 2007-08, but has not yet finalised its business plan for 2008-09.

### Flags: Public Participation

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations he received on the consultation document on flag flying; when he will report on the consultation; and if he will make a statement. [168887]

**Margaret Hodge:** 305 responses were received by the time the consultation on flying the Union flag on Government buildings closed on 9 November.

DCMS has committed to publishing a summary of those responses within one month of the end of the consultation. The Government intend to respond in the new year.

### Football Association

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings he had with the Football Association in each week since June 2007; what the *(a)* location and *(b)* duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; what the cost was of each meeting, broken down by (i) administrative and (ii) other costs; and if he will make a statement. [169537]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has met the Football Association on a number of occasions since June 2007, firstly on 7 August at the Creating Chances launch, in his office on 8 August, at the launch of Kickz on 14 September, at a reception he hosted for the England women's football team at DCMS on 7 November, at the Barclays Spaces for Sport event at Rosemary Gardens, Islington on 22 November and at Fulham Football Academy on 26 November.

I have also met the FA on a number of occasions since June 2007. Firstly on 13 June and 5 July both in my office, at Soho Square on 18 July, at the FA Agents Conference at Wembley Stadium on 11 October, at a reception for the England women's football team at DCMS on 7 November, at Fulham Football Academy on 26 November and most recently on 28 November at Soho Square. A note was taken of the main issues discussed on 13 June, 5 July, 8 August and 28 November respectively.

The cost of these meetings was met from normal departmental running costs.

### Football: Females

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make representations to enable a women's football team from Great Britain to compete in the 2008 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [169361]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Any decision on whether a Great Britain football team participates at the 2008 Olympic games is a matter for FIFA, the four Home Nations' Football Associations, and the organisers of the Olympic tournament. I believe that the participation of a GB women's football team in the 2008 Beijing Olympics would have strongly benefited women's football and raised its profile across the whole of the UK. I am therefore very disappointed that, despite encouragement from Government and the current enthusiasm for the women's game, no agreement could be reached between the four Home Nations' Football Associations to allow a GB women's football team to participate.

### Football: Schools

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families on football development in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [170104]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** On 21 November 2007, our Secretary of State and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the DCSF, chaired a seminar with governing bodies and school sport associations, including the Football Association and the English Schools Football Association, to develop our plans to increase competitive sporting opportunities for children and young people and create world class junior competition structures in both schools and clubs.

### Football: Tickets

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has made to the football association on the pricing regime of Premier League football tickets for the 2007-08 season; and if he will make a statement. [170129]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I meet regularly with the football authorities to discuss a range of issues, including those of direct concern to supporters such as ticket pricing.

Ticket pricing is a matter for the football authorities and it would not be right for Government to seek to intervene in these issues directly.

However, there is a clear role for Government to play in acting as a 'critical friend' to football, and in seeking to facilitate useful debates around areas of concern across all levels of sport.

The Government are committed to ensuring that all football clubs are run in the best possible way and that they remain a focal point of their local community. It is essential that a serious debate takes place around the rising costs involved for those wishing to support their local team on a regular basis and the potential impact this trend might have on the supporters of the future.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for his Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170479]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** No illegal immigrants have been discovered working in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport or the Royal Parks in the last year.

### Islam

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will ask Ofcom to place in the Library the material in its possession originating from *(a)* West Midlands police, *(b)* the Crown Prosecution Service and *(c)* other sources relating to Channel 4's Dispatches programme, Undercover Mosques and the Ofcom investigation into it. [169627]

**James Purnell** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The matters raised are the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Licensed Premises: Finance

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will put measures in place to require owners of licensed premises to contribute to the cost of managing public safety consequent upon the night-time economy. [170273]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Such measures would amount to taxation and would therefore be a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to consider. Licensed premises are likely to already be paying tax which would include a contribution to managing public safety at all times of the day and night. There are, therefore, currently no plans to introduce the measures envisaged.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the Minister for Sport will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 15 October on consumer credit licences and amateur private sports clubs (reference: 80018). [170089]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The issues raised in the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 15 October fall within the remit of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR).

I understand that a reply was sent to the hon. Member on 19 November by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Consumer Affairs (Mr. Thomas).

### Multiple Occupation: Digital Broadcasting

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether communal digital television receiving infrastructure will be built in to all new dwellings for multiple occupation constructed as part of the 2012 Olympic site regeneration. [168997]

**James Purnell:** Yes. All residential properties built as part of the Olympic Village will have the benefit of a fibre communications network which will allow for transmission of voice, data and other communication protocols including digital television.

### Museums and Galleries

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 11W, on museums and galleries, if he will list each of the *(a)* museums and *(b)* art galleries sponsored by his Department in each of the last 10 years. [169969]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport sponsors the following museums and galleries:

1. The British Museum
2. The Geffrye Museum
3. The Horniman Museum
4. The Imperial War Museum
5. The Museum of London
6. The Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester
7. The National Gallery
8. The National Maritime Museum
9. The National Museum of Science and Industry
10. National Museums Liverpool[1]
11. The National Portrait Gallery
12. The Natural History Museum
13. The Royal Armouries
14. Sir John Soane's Museum
15. TheTate
16. Tyne and Wear Museums[2]
17. The Victoria and Albert Museum
18. The Wallace Collection.

The Department began sponsorship of the following museums within the last 10 years:

19. The National Coal Mining Museum for England (from 1998-99)
20. The Design Museum (from 2001-02)
21. The National Football Museum (from 2003-04)
22. The Peoples History Museum (from 2003-04).

[1] Includes the Walker and Lady Lever art galleries.

[2] Includes the Laing and Shipley art galleries.

### Music

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what his estimate is of the number of brass bands which were playing in England on *(a)* 1 November 2007, *(b)* 1 November 1997 and *(c)* 1 November 1987; [166962]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of junior or youth brass bands which were playing in England on *(a)* 1 November 2007, *(b)* 1 November 1997 and *(c)* 1 November 1987. [167037]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is unable to make these estimates because the information is not held centrally.

### Royal Opera House: Finance

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been granted to *(a)* the Royal Opera House and *(b)* the London Coliseum by (i) the Arts Council for England and (ii) other public bodies in each of the last five years. [167605]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The figures are as follows:

*(a)* The Royal Opera House

| | | | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Arts Council England (ACE) Core Grant | 21,754,450 | 23,110,841 | 24,866,154 | 25,550,000 | 26,252,600 |
| Other public bodies | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*(b)* English National Opera (who are based in the London Coliseum)

| | | | | | £ million |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Arts Council England (ACE) Core Grant | 15,000,000 | 16,078,500 | 16,556,220 | 17,011,516 | 17,479,300 |
| ACE Stabilisation Funding (Lottery) | 6,496,000 | 1,816,000 | 1,688,000 | 0 | 0 |
| ACE Restoration Closure Grant (Lottery) | 1,070,000 | 500,00 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ACE Restoration Award (Lottery) | 6,733,000 | 0 | 326,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund Restoration Award | 6,654,000 | 1,380,000 | 311,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Westminster City Council | 100,000 | 57,000 | 60,000 | 56,000 | 52,000 |

### Sport: Finance

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated to sport in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* the Lancashire county council area in the last five years. [168306]

**Mr. Sutcliffe** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* Financial support for sport from public sources is primarily channelled through Sport England and UK Sport, the two DCMS sponsored bodies which dispense Exchequer and Lottery funds for sport from DCMS, in line with their own policies and priorities for the development of sport.

UK Sport is the Government's lead agency for high performance sport. It is not possible for UK Sport to determine an amount of funding allocated to specific counties or regions.

The following table provides details of the Exchequer funding and Lottery funding allocated through Sport England to *(a)* Ribble Valley local authority and *(b)* Lancashire county council area for the last five years.

| | | | | | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| *Exchequer funding* | | | | | |
| Lancashire | 0 | 0 | 96,000 | 657,931 | 293,878 |
| *Lottery funding* | | | | | |
| Ribble Valley | 20,000 | 0 | 0 | 56,950 | 0 |
| Lancashire | 1,746,952 | 2,258,697 | 4,078,083 | 4,687,554 | 459,442 |

National Governing Bodies (NGBs) also fund sport through Whole Sport Plans which provide a national funding allocation for each sport and is distributed by Sport England. It is not possible for Sport England to determine the amount of funding allocated through NGBs to specific counties or regions.

### Sports: Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to tackle anti-Semitism in *(a)* football and *(b)* other sports; what recent representations he has received on the

issue; what recent meetings he has had with the Football Association about the issue; what the (i) location and (ii) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; what the cost was of each meeting, broken down by (A) administrative costs and (B) other costs; and if he will make a statement. [169538]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** Sporting Equals, an independent organisation funded by our non-departmental public body, Sport England, are developing guidelines on discrimination in sport, including anti-Semitism.

I have had no meetings with the Football Association (FA) on this issue; however, I have received some correspondence from the public concerning anti-Semitism in sport.

Since the end of 2005, the FA has been working with Maccabi GB (a Jewish charity for sporting, educational and social events), and the Community Security Trust to understand the scope, scale and steps that need to be taken to ensure positive action in tackling anti-Semitism in football. The FA encourages people to report all types of abuse and investigates all incidents, taking appropriate action where proven. Additionally, the FA has available on their website, a religious calendar available to all organisations to assist when planning events and competitions.

### Sports: Finance

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department allocated to sport in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* each Government region in the last five years. [169378]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not fund sport directly. In this instance the funding has been provided by Sport England for sport and physical activity.

*(a) London boroughs that have received funding in the last five years for sport and physical activity*

| *London borough* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Exchequer funding* | | | | | | |
| Brent | — | — | — | — | 3,550 | 3,550 |
| Croydon | 10,000 | — | — | — | 45,000 | 55,000 |
| Enfield and Haringey | 24,000 | 25,000 | 77,000 | — | — | 126,000 |
| Greenwich | — | — | 10,000 | — | — | 10,000 |
| Hackney and Tower Hamlets | 35,000 | 35,000 | 45,000 | — | — | 115,000 |
| Havering | — | — | — | 89,000 | — | 89,000 |
| Newham | — | — | 40,000 | — | — | 40,000 |
| Sutton | — | — | — | — | 34,798 | 34,798 |
| Waltham Forest | — | — | 24,500 | — | — | 24,500 |
| Total | 69,000 | 60,000 | 196,500 | 89,000 | 83,348 | 497,848 |
| *Lottery funding* | | | | | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,003,871 | — | 415,192 | — | — | 3,419,063 |
| Barnet | 646,770 | 20,900 | — | 341,000 | — | 1,008,670 |
| Bexley | 378,344 | 1,675,000 | — | 717,302 | 1,387,996 | 4,158,642 |
| Brent | 899,643 | 225,211 | 253,610 | 186,412 | — | 1,564,876 |
| Bromley | — | 936,281 | 470,340 | 1,761,528 | 1,630,200 | 4,798,349 |
| Camden | 1,329,913 | 161,170 | 8,128,681 | 2,165,010 | 3,254,411 | 15,039,185 |
| City of London | 1,947,500 | — | — | 187,530 | 61,667 | 2,196,697 |
| Croydon | 754,110 | 145,000 | 168,000 | 438,855 | 170,000 | 1,675,965 |
| Ealing | 10,255 | 72,009 | 10,000 | 155,328 | — | 247,592 |
| Enfield | 1,580,000 | 850,000 | 6,700,000 | 13,086 | — | 9,143,086 |
| Greenwich | 652,498 | 119,551 | 343,161 | 2,193,000 | 6,000,000 | 9,308,210 |
| Hackney | 3,702,713 | — | 192,473 | — | — | 3,895,186 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 392,102 | 389,915 | 4,262,394 | 11,146,093 | 2,247,000 | 18,437,504 |
| Haringey | 422,206 | 351,812 | 873,745 | 53,340 | 67,971 | 1,769,074 |
| Harrow | 597,833 | — | — | — | — | 597,833 |
| Havering | 662,481 | 188,000 | 138,000 | 123,165 | — | 1,111,646 |
| Hillingdon | — | 40,000 | 2,046,505 | 300,984 | — | 2,387,489 |
| Hounslow | 2,557,952 | 1,109,399 | 1,870,873 | 3,832,520 | 4,567,969 | 13,938,713 |
| Islington | 993,452 | 327,383 | 910,076 | 25,074 | 20,000 | 2,275,985 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 462,077 | — | 256,217 | — | — | 718,294 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 586,149 | 4,185 | — | — | — | 590,334 |
| Lambeth | 104,748 | 573,619 | 3,093,282 | — | 293,855 | 4,065,504 |
| Lewisham | 1,242,007 | 633,737 | 727,141 | 173,165 | — | 2,776,050 |
| Merton | 10,000 | — | 40,000 | — | — | 50,000 |
| Newham | 725,905 | 785,327 | 1,198,251 | 146,400 | 50,000 | 2,905,883 |
| Redbridge | 441,332 | — | — | 40,000 | — | 481,332 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 12,637 | — | 636,876 | — | 131,233 | 780,746 |

*(a) London boroughs that have received funding in the last five years for sport and physical activity*

| *London borough* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southwark | 361,982 | 3,460,676 | 318,516 | 1,312,648 | 1,587,213 | 7,041,035 |
| Sutton | — | 1,493,077 | 213,000 | — | — | 1,706,077 |
| Tower Hamlets | 1,062,072 | 434,895 | 8,414,074 | 123,650 | 375,237 | 10,409,928 |
| Waltham Forest | 258,449 | 3,509,891 | 2,123,124 | 697,265 | — | 6,588,729 |
| Wandsworth | 70,349 | 131,286 | 1,385,340 | 75,000 | — | 1,661,975 |
| Westminster | 579,263 | 2,497,880 | 3,934,762 | 13,323,853 | 16,065,557 | 36,401,315 |
| Total | 26,448,613 | 20,136,204 | 49,123,633 | 39,532,208 | 37,910,309 | 173,150,967 |

*(b) Each Government region in the last five years*

| *Region* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Exchequer funding* | | | | | | |
| North East | 387,154 | 316,978 | 573,493 | 686,252 | 773,705 | 2,737,582 |
| Yorkshire | 611,577 | 285,752 | 433,621 | 1,466,264 | 1,366,338 | 4,163,552 |
| East Midlands | 352,371 | 280,601 | 751,227 | 1,220,307 | 1,407,769 | 4,012,275 |
| East | 192,187 | 110,187 | 539,809 | 1,067,285 | 1,189,251 | 3,098,719 |
| London | 513,301 | 363,872 | 688,247 | 1,417,111 | 1,907,508 | 4,890,039 |
| South East | 618,908 | 438,184 | 751,659 | 1,379,723 | 1,806,609 | 4,995,083 |
| South West | 440,501 | 298,493 | 821,550 | 1,235,106 | 1,390,265 | 4,185,915 |
| West Midlands | 617,549 | 381,465 | 842,088 | 1,108,167 | 1,337,765 | 4,287,034 |
| North West | 667,646 | 334,608 | 660,103 | 1,020,177 | 1,687,361 | 4,369,894 |
| Total | 4,401,196 | 2,810,138 | 6,061,796 | 10,600,391 | 12,866,572 | 36,740,092 |
| *Lottery funding* | | | | | | |
| North East | 12,672,549 | 4,648,613 | 17,872,578 | 4,366,968 | 5,116,671 | 44,677,379 |
| Yorkshire | 14,206,113 | 19,857,835 | 15,264,774 | 11,774,228 | 10,616,141 | 719,091 |
| East Midlands | 22,346,837 | 19,096,340 | 16,917,673 | 20,285,037 | 13,341,467 | 91,987,354 |
| East | 24,425,931 | 13,030,007 | 14,256,874 | 9,897,743 | 13,282,294 | 74,892,849 |
| London | 26,448,613 | 20,136,204 | 49,123,633 | 39,532,208 | 37,910,309 | 173,150,967 |
| South East | 31,211,474 | 18,586,002 | 12,338,033 | 22,040,369 | 17,328,248 | 101,504,126 |
| South West | 17,962,647 | 19,163,679 | 13,879,830 | 4,773,671 | 5,025,091 | 60,804,918 |
| West Midlands | 15,525,528 | 8,801,762 | 16,863,954 | 11,628,186 | 11,166,683 | 63,986,113 |
| North West | 22,783,812 | 24,276,474 | 38,357,852 | 33,594,879 | 12,650,915 | 131,663,932 |
| Total | 187,583,504 | 147,596,916 | 194,875,201 | 157,893,289 | 126,437,819 | 681,546,729 |

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many reports relating to funding awards his Department and its agencies expect to receive from sports governing bodies in each year until 2010; how many staff his Department expects to allocate to processing these reports and analysing the findings in each year; and how much is allocated to fund that activity. [169501]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department does not receive any such reports directly. DCMS receives assessments of the reports listed as follows within its framework of formal quarterly reviews of both UK Sport and Sport England. I meet with the chair of each body on an annual basis to discuss financial performance, including the outcome of these quarterly reviews. As such, DCMS allocates neither staff nor budgets exclusively to the processing or analysing of these reports.

*UK Sport*

UK Sport requires each of its 24 funded sports to submit a plan for each four-year 'Olympic Cycle', expecting one plan from each funded NGB in autumn 2008 to cover the 2009-13 London cycle. In addition, each sport is asked by UK Sport to submit an annual budget and cash-flow, monitored on a quarterly basis.

Each funded sport will submit one four-year plan, one annual budget, and four quarterly monitoring reports in 2008-09; and one annual budget and four quarterly monitoring reports in 2009-10.

*Sport England*

Sport England requires each of the 35 governing bodies with Whole Sport Plan funding agreements to submit progress reports annually. Sport England also carries out quarterly reviews for each of these sports.

The 26 governing bodies that receive Club Links and Step into Sport funding provide quarterly reports for each stream.

The 31 governing bodies that receive Club and Coach Fund awards submit quarterly progress reports.

The 19 governing bodies with clubs that are currently part of the Community Club Development Programme assist them in providing six-monthly progress reports.

**Sports: Summertime**

**Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effect on participation rates in sport and outdoor recreation of introducing British summer time in winter. [170767]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** There has been no research to assess the likely effect of introducing British summer time in winter on participation rates in sport and outdoor recreation.

### VisitBritain: Finance

**Nick Ainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much VisitBritain spent in each year since its establishment; how much it is budgeted to spend in each year of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review period; and what the percentage change *(a)* was and *(b)* is expected to be from each year to the next. [168920]

**Margaret Hodge:** Since its establishment, VisitBritain's total spending has been:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 65.9 |
| 2004-05 | 61.5 |
| 2005-06 | 68.4 |
| 2006-07 | 70.1 |

The majority of this was grant-in-aid from DCMS, as follows (with percentage changes on the previous years):

| | *£ million* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 47.9 | + 1.7 |
| 2004-05 | 48.4 | + 1.1 |
| 2005-06 | 48.9 | + 1.0 |
| 2006-07 | 49.9 | + 2.1 |

The rest of VisitBritain's spending for these years was funded by partnerships with the private sector for specific marketing campaigns, income from the visitor accommodation quality scheme, and other sources.

Total spending for future years will depend on levels of non-DCMS income. VisitBritain's grant-in-aid funding for 2007-08 is £50.7 million, which includes £750,000 in additional funding for rural domestic tourism marketing following the July flooding.

Grant-in-aid funding for the period covered by the Comprehensive Spending Review will be as follows (with percentage changes on the previous years):

| | *£ million* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 47.9 | - 4.0 |
| 2009-10 | 45.4 | - 5.2 |
| 2010-12 | 40.9 | - 9.9 |

### Wembley Stadium

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he had with the Football Association before the construction of Wembley Stadium on *(a)* the provision of a roof and *(b)* facilities within the stadium; and if he will make a statement. [169535]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The history of my Department's involvement in the development of the Wembley Stadium project is well documented in a number of published reports including: English National Stadium Review Interim Report (December 2001)—HC 479; English National Stadium Review Final Report (October 2002)—HC 1179; The English national stadium project at Wembley—HC 699 Session 2002-03.

The Lottery Funding Agreement between the English Sports Council, Wembley National Stadium Ltd. and the Football Association sets out the minimum standards required in relation to: the design and engineering of the stadium; the technical specifications of the playing area; facilities for participants and spectators; safety management; and communications.

However, the detailed design specifications of the roof and facilities at Wembley Stadium are a matter for Wembley National Stadium Ltd. and the Football Association.

## DEFENCE

### Military Covenant

9. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had on the Government's observance of the military covenant. [169654]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Defence Secretary has had numerous recent discussions on this important subject with Cabinet Colleagues, ex-service organisations and others. As part of the recently announced Service Personnel Command Paper discussions are being held with key stakeholders from the charity sector, service families' federations and across Government.

### RAF Fylingdales and Menwith Hill

10. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future role of RAF Fylingdales and Menwith Hill in ballistic missile defence systems. [169655]

**Des Browne:** The early warning radar at RAF Fylingdales will process and pass on tracking data into both the UK's own US ballistic missile warning system, the US ballistic missile defence (BMD) system. RAF Menwith Hill will continue automatically to route information from US satellites but will now also pass this data into the US communications network for BMD. This data will also alert our own missile warning radar at RAF Fylingdales as part of its long-standing UK mission to provide missile attack warning.

### Royal Navy

11. **Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the role of the Royal Navy in operations abroad. [169656]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Royal Navy and Royal Marines are considerably engaged in the current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Royal Navy is also contributing to a wide range of standing and contingent military tasks, including the defence and security of overseas territories and contributing to the NATO Rapid Reaction Forces.

Royal Marines routinely deploy on land operations

### Afghanistan: Languages

12. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British armed forces personnel have been trained in Afghan Persian, Dari, Pashto, Turkic and other languages of Afghanistan. [169657]

**Des Browne:** There are around 39 languages spoken in Afghanistan. 188 personnel have received training in Pashto and 56 personnel have received training in Dari, the two most significant languages for UK deployments. One individual has received training in Balochi. No training has been given in the other languages.

### Afghanistan: Helmand Province

13. **Mr. Quentin Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made by UK armed forces in Helmand Province over the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [169659]

16. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made by UK armed forces in Helmand Province over the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [169662]

**Des Browne:** UK forces have continued to clear the Taliban from the Gereshk and Sangin Valleys, and to provide the Afghan National Army with the training needed to take increasing responsibility for operations.

Our forces are bringing security to an increasing proportion of Helmand's population and enabling the development work needed to improve their quality of life.

### Armed Forces' Veterans

14. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to improve priority care for armed forces' veterans. [169660]

**Derek Twigg:** NHS priority treatment has been restricted to veterans with disablements accepted under our no fault compensation schemes as service-related. I am pleased to confirm the Health Secretary's announcement on 23 November that eligibility will now be extended to any veteran whose condition the general practitioner suspects is due to service. This will offer a significant enhancement to the veterans' health care and I welcome the decisions in Scotland and Wales to follow this lead.

### Defence Industrial Strategy

15. **Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the second part of the Defence Industrial Strategy to be published. [169661]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** We are currently reviewing the timetable for the publication of the updated Defence Industrial Strategy. I will inform the House of the rescheduled publication date in due course.

### Submarine Fleet

17. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future size of the submarine fleet. [169663]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Our judgment remains as set out in the 2004 Defence White Paper, 'Delivering Security in a Changing World', that a fleet of eight of the current classes of attack submarines will be sufficient in the medium term to meet the full range of tasks. We expect to reduce to a fleet of eight attack submarines by December 2008.

For the future, the more capable Astute submarines will represent a significant addition to the delivery of effects-based warfare. Our current planning assumption envisages an attack fleet of seven submarines after 2022, but this will remain subject to review. Over the next 15 years, attack submarine numbers will fluctuate between seven and eight as the Astute submarine replaces the Swiftsure and Trafalgar class submarines.

### Menwith Hill

18. **Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the use of Menwith Hill for missile defence purposes. [169664]

**Des Browne:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Scarborough and Whitby (Mr. Goodwill).

21. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information the Government will receive from the US Administration on the operation of the US missile defence system in the event of missile engagements taking place that are wholly or partly informed by data from the radar at RAF Menwith Hill. [169667]

**Des Browne:** There is no radar at RAF Menwith Hill. The satellite early warning information which is routed through RAF Menwith Hill, is shared by the US and UK.

### HMS Lancastria

19. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had on recognising the wreck of HMS Lancastria as a war grave. [169665]

**Derek Twigg:** During 2005 and 2006 the Ministry of Defence through the British embassy in Paris, discussed with the French authorities protection for the wreck of HMT Lancastria, which lies in French territorial waters and which we consider to be a military maritime grave. These discussions were positive and in the summer of 2006, the French authorities gave the wreck legal protection.

### FRES

20. **Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the latest in-service date is for the Future Rapid Effect System. [169666]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** It is our policy not to release or discuss planned in-service dates for equipment projects ahead of the main investment decision.

### Military Casualties

22. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to improve continuity of care for wounded servicemen and women; and if he will make a statement. [169668]

**Derek Twigg:** We are always looking to improve the clinical, welfare and administrative care of wounded personnel. Earlier this year we created the Standing Joint Commander Medical post at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine in Birmingham to coordinate the operational patient pathway. A new Defence Patient Tracking System was launched on 8 October 2007 for patients evacuated to the UK, to ensure that they receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

### Iraq

23. **Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the capability of the Iraqi security forces in Basra province; and if he will make a statement. [169669]

**Des Browne:** Since taking on the primary role in providing security for Basra city, the Iraqi Security Forces have proved able to deal effectively and efficiently with security related incidents as they arise.

As the Prime Minister of Iraq announced in October, the formal transfer of Basra province to Iraqi control is expected to take place later this month. This is in no small part due to the increased capability of the Iraqi Security Forces.

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what level in his Department the decision by British military commanders to support district centres in northern Helmand province was approved; and whether the Prime Minister was aware of Governor Daud's request prior to deployment of British forces in support of their district centres. [168859]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Decisions on how UK forces are deployed in the military conduct of the ISAF mission in support of the government of Afghanistan are an operational matter. These decisions are taken by the military command structure in theatre supported by the permanent joint headquarters (PJHQ) in the United Kingdom. Ministers are informed and fully briefed on all key operational decisions by PJHQ and the Ministry of Defence as appropriate.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what new contributions to the International Security Assistance Force operational requirements of equipment, personnel and other resources have been provided since 19 September 2007 as called for in UN Security Council Resolution 1776. [167421]

**Des Browne:** Since 19 September there have been a number of new contributions pledged and provided by various nations. In the wake of the NATO Force Generation Conference (6-8 November) there have been renewals or further contributions made by 13 nations with a 14th pending political approval and a 15th under consideration. Capabilities committed have included Hercules transport aircraft, support helicopters and training teams for the Afghan National Army. The specific details are a matter for each individual country concerned.

### Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department's financial contribution will be to the EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic under the 2004 ATHENA mechanism. [169453]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Force generation for the EU military mission to Chad/Central African Republic has not yet been completed; therefore the EU Special Committee ATHENA has not yet screened and agreed a budget. I am therefore unable to say how much the Department's financial contribution will be to the mission.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when EUFOR Chad/RCA will reach its full operational capacity. [169458]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Planning for the EU military operation to Chad/Central African Republic is ongoing and the EU Force has not yet deployed. The Operation Commander's assessment on obtaining Full Operational Capability cannot be made until the EU Force is established in theatre.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any EU members have placed caveats or national restrictions on their military contribution to EUFOR-Althea. [169462]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The UK has placed no caveats or national restrictions on our military contribution for Op Althea. Any national caveats by other EU member states are classified and not normally available within the public domain. Individual member states may make their caveats public (for example as part of their national parliamentary process), but details of such public notifications are not declared to the EU or to other member states as a matter of course.

### Air Force: Cadets

**Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for changes to the level of funding for the Air Cadets. [170115]

**Derek Twigg:** The MOD currently has no plans to change the funding of the Air Cadets.

### Armed Forces: Cadets

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely effect on expenditure on minibuses by army cadet groups of

the London low emissions zone in the first 12 months of its operation. [168658]

**Derek Twigg:** The minibuses operated by Army Cadet groups will not incur any additional charges in the first 12 months of the operation of the London low emissions zone. We are currently reviewing which vehicles may attract charges when charging for minibuses comes into effect in October 2010.

### Armed Forces: Food

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average daily cost to the public purse was of food provided to a member of *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force in the most recent period for which figures are available. [168204]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The average daily cost, known as the daily messing rate (DMR), is based on a "basket" of nearly 100 basic catering items, and is calculated on a quarterly basis by applying prices obtained from the MOD's food supply contractor to the appropriate ration scale. The DMRs for 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2007 are as follows:

Army personnel: The DMR in their home posting is £1.63;

Royal Navy personnel: The DMR in port is £1.78 (unless on duty watch, when 'at sea rates' apply);

RAF personnel: The DMR at home bases is £1.63.

For personnel on active duty, such as on exercise, on operations or at sea, the rate can rise to £2.69 per day. These apparently low amounts are achieved by the scale of purchase of the 'basket items1 and the associated economy of scale. Furthermore, DMR is the cost of the raw materials only and does not include transport or other costs.

### Armed Forces: Housing

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many substitute service family accommodation properties were rented in each year since 1997. [168871]

**Derek Twigg:** The following table shows the number of substitute service family accommodation (SSFA) properties rented in each year since 1997.

| | *Total number of properties rented during year* |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 565 |
| 1998 | 966 |
| 1999 | 1,132 |
| 2000 | 1,054 |
| 2001 | 1,070 |
| 2002 | 1,118 |
| 2003 | 1,329 |
| 2004 | 1,474 |
| 2005 | 1,845 |
| 2006 | 2,023 |
| 2007 | 1,884 |

MOD is required to accommodate entitled personnel within 10 miles of their duty station (or 20 miles with permission of their service commander). Where no suitable service family accommodation can be found, SSFA is offered within the appropriate distance from a duty station.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the 50 most expensive substitute service family accommodation and substitute single living accommodation properties rented out in the last 12 months were. [168873]

**Derek Twigg:** The information requested will take time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

### Armed Forces: Pay

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defepce what pay increases the armed forces have received in the last two years. [170275]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Increases in the pay of the armed forces, as recommended by the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body for 2006-07 and 2007-08, are shown in the following table. The table shows both the overall percentage increase in pay for service personnel and variations to this by individual rank groupings.

| *Financial year* | *Service pay increase (percentage)* | *Exceptions* |
|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 3.3 | 9.4 per cent. for pay range 1, level 1 (higher and lower) and 6.2 per cent for pay range 1, level 2 (lower) |
| 2006-07 | 3.0 | 3.3 per cent for other ranks range 1 (lower), range 1, level 1 (higher) |

### Armed Forces: Widowed People

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces widows voluntarily surrendered their pensions on remarriage or cohabitation in each of the last five years; and what the associated saving to the defence budget was in each year. [169976]

**Derek Twigg:** An exercise is currently under way to provide detailed figures. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as this exercise is completed.

### Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Contracts

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will name the prime contractors bidding for the Future Rapid Effect System contract; and if he will make a statement. [169310]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The acquisition strategy for the future rapid effect system (FRES) is to establish an alliance, led by the Department and supported by a system of systems integrator (SOSI). The approved acquisition strategy involves a strong competitive element with an initial wave of three separate competitions to select a system of systems integrator (SOSI), a utility vehicle (UV) design and a UV integrator. An alliance construct,

rather than a prime contractor is considered to be the most appropriate commercial arrangement to deliver FRES.

A team of Thales and Boeing has been named as the preferred bidder in the SOSI competition and contract negotiations are under way.

Three vehicle designs were selected to take part in the UV Design competition. The vehicle designs selected were BOXER (ARTEC, a German and Dutch joint venture company), PIRANHA (General Dynamics UK) and VBCI (Nexter).

The UV Integrator competition is at the pre-qualification stage. Pre-qualification questionnaires were issued in October 2007 and responses are due to be returned by the end of November. One or more UV Integrators will be selected, by the end of March 2008, to go forward to the next stage. As we are in the midst of the UV Integrator competition, I am withholding the names of companies participating as their release would, or would be likely to prejudice commercial interests.

### Army: Manpower

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost of expanding the size of the Army by three battalions. [165588]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** It is not possible to provide any worthwhile estimate of the cost of an additional three battalions; the figures required to calculate this cost are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure is spread over a variety of budgets and will vary according to the composition of the battalion, the role to which it will attributed, the tasks in which it will be engaged and where it will be deployed.

### Army: Recruitment

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list, by regiment, the extent of recruitment against targets for each year since 2000. [166967]

**Derek Twigg:** Officers are not recruited against regimental targets but against a whole Army requirement. It is only after completing officer training and commissioning that an officer joins a particular regiment. The information for targets and achievements against total officer recruiting for direct entry and professionally qualified officers is only recorded since 2002, and is shown in the following table.

| | *Direct entry* | *Professionally qualified officer* |
|---|---|---|
| *2002-03* | | |
| Entered training | 690 | 110 |
| Manning requirement | 660 | 150 |
| *2003-04* | | |
| Entered training | 750 | 90 |
| Manning requirement | 660 | 160 |
| *2004-05* | | |
| Entered training | 720 | 90 |
| Manning requirement | 660 | 160 |
| *2005-06* | | |
| Entered training | 720 | 110 |
| Manning requirement | 720 | 140 |
| *2006-07* | | |
| Entered training | 710 | 70 |
| Manning requirement | 710 | 130 |

Similarly, soldiers are not recruited against regimental targets but against Arms and corps requirements. Information held centrally on targets and achievements for Soldier recruitment to arms and corps is shown as follows. Further detail could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

| | *2001-02* | | *2002-03* | | *2003-04* | | *2004-05* | | *2005-06* | | *2006-07* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Arm or corps* | *E* | *R* | *E* | *R* | *E* | *R* | *E* | *R* | *E* | *R* | *E* | *R* |
| HCAV | — | — | — | — | 140 | 120 | 160 | 110 | 80 | 150 | 170 | 170 |
| RAC | — | — | — | — | 570 | 550 | 270 | 280 | 600 | 550 | 630 | 630 |
| RA | — | — | — | — | 990 | 950 | 620 | 670 | 750 | 1,040 | 970 | 1,030 |
| RE | — | — | — | — | 1,060 | 1,160 | 820 | 930 | 1,450 | 1,350 | 1,340 | 1,370 |
| R Signals | — | — | — | — | 1,010 | 870 | 740 | 840 | 750 | 770 | 750 | 870 |
| AAC | — | — | — | — | 340 | 300 | 250 | 250 | 230 | 260 | 210 | 190 |
| RLC | — | — | — | — | 2,300 | 2,500 | 2080 | 2,330 | 2,090 | 2,380 | 2,100 | 2,410 |
| AMS | — | — | — | — | 440 | 360 | 390 | 350 | 380 | 470 | 430 | 450 |
| REME | — | — | — | — | 1,420 | 1,120 | 1,060 | 1,020 | 1,250 | 1,030 | 1,290 | 1,060 |
| AGC | — | — | — | — | 600 | 530 | 330 | 410 | 240 | 330 | 260 | 400 |
| Int Corps | — | — | — | — | 110 | 110 | 100 | 110 | 150 | 160 | 160 | 160 |
| CA Music | — | — | — | — | 50 | 110 | 40 | 90 | 20 | 80 | 40 | 70 |
| Infantry | 4,490 | 5,160 | 4,950 | 4,270 | 4,630 | 4,480 | 3,410 | 4,150 | 3,450 | 4,150 | 4,310 | 4,260 |

*Notes:*
E—Enlisted
R—Required
HCAV—Household Cavalry
RAC—Royal Armoured Corps
RA—Royal Artillery
RE—Royal Engineers
R Signals—Royal Signals
AAC—Army Air Corps
RLC—Royal Logistics Corps
AMS—Army Medical Services
REME—Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
AGC—Adjutant General's Corps
Int Corps—Intelligence Corps
CA Music—Corps of Army Music

Statistics have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

### Army: Scotland

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of army troops was from *(a)* Scottish regiments and *(b)* the Royal Regiment of Scotland in each year since 2003. [168895]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** While there are regiments which can be considered as having direct Scottish lineage, there is no single recognised definition of a 'Scottish Regiment'. I can, however, advise that since 2003, Regular Army units which recruit predominantly from, and are historically affiliated to, Scotland have represented roughly between 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. of the British Army.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of army troops who have been injured or wounded *(a)* by accident and *(b)* in action in each year since 2003 was from (i) Scottish regiments and (ii) the Royal Regiment. [168896]

**Derek Twigg:** The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Ballistic Missile Defence

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what public consultation was conducted before 25 July 2007 on the use of Menwith Hill as part of the US ballistic missile defence system. [168867]

**Des Browne:** The Ministry of Defence published a discussion document on missile defence in November 2002, ahead of a full debate in the House in 2003. The principles underlying ballistic missile defence, as they affect the UK, have not changed since then.

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his Czech and Polish counterparts on the US Ballistic Missile Defence programme; and if he will make a statement. [168868]

**Des Browne:** It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations. However, the issue of missile defence is routinely discussed with our allies in a number of NATO forums.

### Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team Report 2007

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team Report 2007. [169464]

**Des Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 308W, to the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry).

### Defence: European Union

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he had with his EU counterparts at the meeting of Defence Ministers in Brussels on 19 November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [169465]

**Des Browne:** I refer the hon. Member to my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe's written ministerial statement of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 17-21WS.

### Departmental Catering

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's total expenditure was on *(a)* food services and *(b)* food purchases as listed in his Department's resource account code hierarchy, in near cash terms, in each financial year since 2000-01. [169349]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The total resource costs of the expenditure items are set out in the following table:

| | | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | *Food Services* | *Food Purchases* |
| 2000-01 | 69.2 | 124.6 |
| 2001-02 | 74.2 | 130.5 |
| 2002-03 | 89.5 | 142.5 |
| 2003-04 | 98.7 | 172.6 |
| 2004-05 | 87.5 | 147.9 |
| 2005-06 | 93.4 | 149.3 |
| 2006-07 | 94.0 | 180.0 |

## Departmental Expenditure

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's total expenditure was on *(a)* administration and *(b)* administration claims, as listed in his Department's resource account code hierarchy, in near cash terms, in each financial year since 2000-01. [169353]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The total resource costs of the expenditure items are set out in the following table:

| | | £ million |
|---|---|---|
| | *Administration* | *Administration Claims* |
| 2000-01 | 138.2 | 4.7 |
| 2001-02 | 167.3 | 6.3 |
| 2002-03 | 161.1 | 5.2 |
| 2003-04 | 189.4 | 10.3 |
| 2004-05 | 188.5 | 27.9 |
| 2005-06 | 191.1 | 18.5 |
| 2006-07 | 189.8 | 22.4 |

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's total expenditure on welfare services, as listed in his Department's resource account code hierarchy, was in near cash terms in each financial year since 2000-01. [169355]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The total resource costs of the expenditure item are set out in the following table:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 12.7 |
| 2001-02 | 16.2 |
| 2002-03 | 17.8 |
| 2003-04 | 16.8 |
| 2004-05 | 18.5 |
| 2005-06 | 18.3 |
| 2006-07 | 18.9 |

## Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169033]

**Derek Twigg:** The percentage turnover of Ministry of Defence civilian personnel within the Department for financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007 are shown in the following table:

| | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *Percentage 2005 to 2007*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| MoD (excluding trading funds)[2] | 10.7 | 11.7 | 11.2 |
| Trading funds | 13.1 | 13.4 | 13.3 |
| MoD Total[2] | 11.0 | 11.9 | 11.5 |

[1] Turnover percentage for 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007 is based on the annual average level of outflow for 2005-06 and 2006-07 divided by the weighted 25 month average strength.
[2] Departmental totals exclude Royal Fleet auxiliary personnel and locally engaged civilians for whom outflow data is not available.

Information on outflows from individual Defence agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## Departmental Land

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list all land and properties in London that his Department *(a)* rents, *(b)* leases and *(c)* owns, indicating in each case whether the property is used by (i) the Territorial Army and (ii) other services. [169372]

**Derek Twigg:** This information is not held in the form requested and will take time to collate and verify. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

## Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place a copy of his Department's civilian and military manpower capitation rates document for the latest available financial year in the Library. [167909]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in the other place by my noble Friend, Baroness Taylor of Bolton, to the noble Lord, Lord Astor of Hever on 20 November 2007, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA62.

## Departmental Public Expenditure

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates, HC 29, if he will break down the revised provision by subhead in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms. [169356]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The following table provides a breakdown of the Requests for Resources of the Ministry of Defence Winter Supplementary Estimates 2007-08 HC, by subhead showing all categories of expenditure.

| *TLB* | *Estimate type* | *Winter Supplementary Estimates (£000)* |
|---|---|---|
| Commander-in-Chief Fleet | Resource DEL near cash | 2,200,097 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 1,548 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 44,054 |
| | Total DEL | 2,245,699 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |

| TLB | Estimate type | Winter Supplementary Estimates (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total Commander-in-Chief Fleet | | 2,245,699 |
| Commander-in-Chief Land Command | Resource DEL near cash | 5,857,744 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 12,667 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 217,493 |
| | Total DEL | 6,087,904 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total Commander-in-Chief Land Command | | 6,087,904 |
| Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Air Command[1] | Resource DEL near cash | 2,702,476 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 2,353 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 58,179 |
| | Total DEL | 2,763,008 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Strike Command | | 2,763,008 |
| Chief of Joint Operations | Resource DEL near cash | 407,833 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 3,239 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 51,488 |
| | Total DEL | 462,560 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 3,599 |
| | Total AME | 3,599 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total Chief of Joint Operations | | 466,159 |
| Adjutant-General | Resource DEL near cash | 774,189 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | -92,230 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 19,592 |
| | Total DEL | 701,551 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 9,314 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 9,314 |
| Total Adjutant-General | | 710,865 |
| Central | Resource DEL near cash | 2,138,516 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 132,053 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | -250 |
| | Total DEL | 2,270,319 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 3,899 |
| | Total AME | 3,899 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 750 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 750 |
| Total Central | | 2,274,968 |
| Science and Technology | Resource DEL near cash | 545,164 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | -4,891 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 0 |
| | Total DEL | 540,273 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |

| TLB | Estimate type | Winter Supplementary Estimates (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total Science and Technology | | 540,273 |
| Defence Estates | Resource DEL near cash | 1,038,281 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 1,562,269 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | -110,528 |
| | Total DEL | 2,490,022 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 3,141 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 1,904 |
| | Total Non Budget | 5,045 |
| Total Defence Estates | | 2,495,067 |
| Defence Equipment and Support | Resource DEL near cash | 6,796,242 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 9,000,691 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 6,858,527 |
| | Total DEL | 22,655,460 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 83,696 |
| | Total AME | 83,696 |
| | Non Budget near cash | -4 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | -4 |
| Total Defence Equipment and Support | | 22,739,152 |
| Loans and grants Hydrographers Office | Resource DEL near cash | 0 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 0 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | -421 |
| | Total DEL | -421 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total Loans and grants Hydrographers Office | | -421 |
| Loans and grants DARA | Resource DEL near cash | 0 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 0 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | -55,812 |
| | Total DEL | -55,812 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total Loans and grants DARA | | -55,812 |
| Loans and grants ABRO | Resource DEL near cash | 0 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 0 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | -2,154 |
| | Total DEL | -2,154 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total Loans and grants ABRO | | -2,154 |
| Loans and grants Met Office | Resource DEL near cash | 0 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 0 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 7,458 |
| | Total DEL | 7,458 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |

| TLB | Estimate type | Winter Supplementary Estimates (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total Loans and grants Met Office | | 7,458 |
| Total RfR1 | Resource DEL near cash | 22,460,542 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 10,617,699 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 7,087,626 |
| | Total DEL | 40,165,867 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 91,194 |
| | Total AME | 91,194 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 13,201 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 1,904 |
| | Total Non Budget | 15,105 |
| Total RfR1 | | 40,272,166 |
| *Conflict Prevention RfR2* | | |
| Programme Sub Saharan Africa | Resource DEL near cash | 29,063 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 0 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 0 |
| | Total DEL | 29,063 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Programme Sub Saharan Africa | | 29,063 |
| Programme Rest of the World | Resource DEL near cash | 1,330,240 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 0 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 604,000 |
| | Total DEL | 1,934,240 |
| | AME near cash | 0 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |
| | Total AME | 0 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total Programme Rest of the World | | 1,934,240 |
| Total Conflict Prevention RfR2 | | 1,963,303 |
| *War Pensions and Benefits RfR3* | | |
| War Pensions Programme costs | Resource DEL near cash | 0 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 0 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 0 |
| | Total DEL | 0 |
| | AME near cash | 1,026,482 |
| | AME non cash | 25 |
| | Total AME | 1,026,507 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total War Pensions Programme costs | | 1,026,507 |
| War Pensions Programme costs, Far East Prisoners of War | Resource DEL near cash | 0 |
| | Resource DEL non-cash | 0 |
| | Capital DEL near cash | 0 |
| | Total DEL | 0 |
| | AME near cash | 500 |
| | AME non cash | 0 |
| | Total AME | 500 |
| | Non Budget near cash | 0 |
| | Non Budget non cash | 0 |
| | Capital Non-Budget | 0 |
| | Total Non Budget | 0 |
| Total War Pensions Programme costs, Far East Prisoners of War | | 500 |

| TLB | Estimate type | Winter Supplementary Estimates (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| Total War Pension and Allowances | | 1,027,007 |
| MOD total | | 43,262,476 |

[1] Commander-in-Chief Air Command was created from the former Strike and Personnel and Training Command TLBs.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the winter supplementary estimates, HC 29, what the source is of the £55 million operating income not appropriated in aid; for what reasons the direct resource departmental expenditure limit will increase by that amount; and if he will make a statement. [169357]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The £55 million operating income is deposited in bank accounts which have not yet been brought to vote. These are subject to end year flexibility (EYF) arrangements where the Treasury have agreed that the Department can draw these funds down as additional Direct RDEL.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the winter supplementary estimates HC 29, for what reasons he plans to transfer £455 million from capital departmental expenditure limit (DEL) to resource DEL; and if he will make a statement. [169358]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The requested transfer of £455 million from Capital to Resource DEL reflects forecast actual spending patterns in the Department's operating costs, such as increased fuel prices.

## Departmental Publicity

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167959]

**Derek Twigg:** The amount spent on armed forces recruitment advertising in financial year 2006-07 was as follows:

| Force | Amount spent on recruitment advertising (£ million) |
|---|---|
| Naval service | 4.828 |
| Army | 23.248 |
| RAF | 4.344 |

Details of civilian recruitment advertising costs are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Advertising costs in financial year 2006-07 with regard to raising awareness of veterans issues were £62,970.

It should be noted that the aforementioned figures take no account of Departmental PR activities.

## Directorate of Targeting and Information Operations

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the work of the directorate of targeting and information operations; and who the members of the group are. [169424]

**Des Browne:** The role of the directorate of targeting and information operations is to provide the policy lead and strategic direction for military targeting, rules of engagement and information operations. It has a staff of 83.

## EU Countries: Military Exercises

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what exercises UK armed forces are committed to with European Union formations for the next 18 months; and which such exercises they have participated in over the last 12 months. [169892]

**Des Browne:** There are no standing European Union military formations and the European Union does not conduct military exercises apart from headquarters level planning exercises. Two UK staff officers were involved in a planning exercise in 2007 and on similar level of involvement is envisaged in 2008.

## EU Defence Policy

**Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which European Union formations UK armed forces have a potential obligation; and on what scale. [169893]

**Des Browne:** There are no standing European Union military formations. All forces are, volunteered by member states on a case-by-case basis.

The EU mission Operation Althea continues in Bosnia Herzegovina and the UK fills 10 posts in the headquarters. The UK, along with Germany and Italy, is providing the NATO pan-Balkans Operational Reserve Force until the end of 2008.

Under standing augmentation procedures, the UK has provided four staff officers to the headquarters for the proposed ESDP mission to Chad. These staff are currently in France.

The UK has also volunteered to provide one of the two EU Battle Groups on standby in the second half of 2008. The UK and the Netherlands have offered to provide an EU Battlegroup on standby from January to June 2010.

Battlegroups would only deploy on operations following a unanimous decision from all 27 EU member states.

The UK Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) at Northwood is one of five national operational headquarters declared available for EU military operations. PJHQ will host and provide technical and administrative support, including trained core staff, for the Nordic Battle Group on standby between January and June 2008. The UK has offered the same facility for the Polish-led Battle Group in the first half of 2010.

### EU Rapid Reaction Force: Aviation

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of the EU's Air Rapid Reaction Force; and if he will make a statement. [169463]

**Des Browne:** There is no EU Air Rapid Reaction Force.

As part of their collective commitment to the EU's Headline Goal 2010 process, member states undertook to develop the ability rapidly to generate forces to support EU-led operations. The EU Military Committee is currently discussing proposals to identify for planning purposes, air assets that member states might make available at short notice to support EU led crisis management operations.

### Ex-servicemen: Hearing Impaired

**Mr. Walter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to allocating resources to the provision of new techniques for assessing hearing deterioration among former military personnel. [169210]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* In line with generally accepted current practice, pure tone audiometry is the main method used to inform determination of claims for hearing loss by former military personnel under the War Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Schemes. Pure tone audiometry is undertaken to quality assured standards by suitably trained technicians. Where the test is considered unreliable, unrepeatable or in some other way unrepresentative of true hearing level, other tests may be used such as evoked response audiometry.

**Mr. Walter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will *(a)* initiate a review of and *(b)* publish the evidence his Department uses when considering hearing tribunals for former military personnel. [169312]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The approach used by the Department in the assessment of noise-induced hearing loss for the purposes of the War Pension Scheme was upheld by an independent expert review in 1998-99 and further endorsed by the November 2002 Industrial Injuries Advisory Council report on occupational deafness. The audiological literature is kept under review including research on technical aspects of, and new approaches to, hearing loss assessment and possible application to MOD's no fault compensation schemes. The scheme rules governing the assessment of noise induced sensorineural hearing loss are currently in article 42 of and part VI of schedule 1 to the Naval, Military and Air Forces Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 2006.

### Hacking

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances of cyber-attacks on his Department's *(a)* public internet website, *(b)* non-classified intranet, *(c)* classified intranet, *(d)* non-classified e-mail system and *(e)* classified e-mail system were reported in each month since 2005; and what the circumstances were of each incident. [169461]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** It would not be in the interests of the UK's national security for MOD to confirm whether it holds information about attacks against its IT systems as this would enable individuals to deduce how successful the Department is in detecting these attacks.

### Information Strategy Co-ordination Group

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the work of the Information Strategy Co-ordination Group; and who the members of the group are. [169425]

**Des Browne:** The Information Strategy Co-ordination Group had a mandate to initiate and oversee information strategies for operations and other areas of UK defence interest. Membership comprised the Director General Operational Policy, Director of Targeting and Information Operations, the MOD Media Operations and Press cells, representatives of the Permanent Joint Headquarters and other Government departments as appropriate. The group last met in December 2006. Its work has been taken over by other internal MOD and inter-departmental bodies.

### Iraq Conflict: Legal Opinion

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the private legal advice obtained by armed forces chiefs prior to the invasion of Iraq. [167334]

**Des Browne:** We hold no such advice.

### Iraq: Medals

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will amend the regulations for the award of campaign medals to members of the armed forces who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan to enable indication of the number of multiple deployments which have been undertaken. [167740]

**Derek Twigg:** There are no plans to amend the regulations for the Iraq campaign medal and operational service medal Afghanistan to recognise multiple tours. To acknowledge that armed forces personnel are returning to theatres of operation where they have already received a campaign medal the accumulated campaign service medal was introduced in January 1994. The medal recognises long campaign service rendered by members of the armed forces since 14 August 1969. It is awarded to holders of the general service medal 1962, the operational service medal, British campaign medals and approved medals instituted by other recognised organisations for multinational operations, on completion of 36 months accumulated campaign service, after first qualifying for the appropriate medal. A clasp is awarded for each subsequent period of 36 months accumulated campaign service.

### Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all British forward field hospitals in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have CT scanners; and how many each forward field hospital has. [168890]

**Derek Twigg:** In Iraq, the UK has one Role 2 (Enhanced) field hospital, located at the contingency operating base, Basra. In Afghanistan, it has one Role 2 (Enhanced) field hospital at camp bastion, the UK military base in Helmand Province. Both have a CT scanner, which is sufficient to meet current and projected requirements.

In both Iraq and Afghanistan, CT scanners are available at other coalition medical facilities, and these may be used in treating UK casualties if it is more convenient to do so.

**Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of Army troops who *(a)* are and *(b)* have been on operational deployment in Iraq during the month of August in each year since 2003 is from (i) Scottish regiments and (ii) the Royal Regiment of Scotland. [168894]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Historical data to support the calculation of the proportion of the total number of Army personnel who have been on operational deployment to Iraq during the month of August since 2003 and who are from particular units are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There is no single definition of a 'Scottish Regiment'. However, there are units which can be considered as having direct Scottish lineage, i.e. the battalions of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, 19 Regiment Royal Artillery, 40 Regiment Royal Artillery and 1st Battalion The Scots Guards. Of these, the following have, since 2003, been deployed in Iraq during the month of August as formed regular army units:

| | *Unit deployed to Iraq* |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 19 RA |
| 2003 | 40 RA |
| 2003 | 1 Scots (KOSB) |
| 2005 | 2 Scots (RHF) |
| 2004 | 3 Scots (BW) |

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Minister for Veterans will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 14 September (reference: MC04936/2007). [170091]

**Derek Twigg:** I replied to the hon. Member on 28 November. I apologise for the delay.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the 10-year projected budget was for *(a)* helicopter procurement and *(b)* the Future Rotorcraft capability in each year since 1997. [162523]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The 10 year projected budget for helicopter procurement and the element of this reported under the Future Rotorcraft Capability programme is shown as follows.

*Nearest £100 million*

| | *Total forward forecast helicopter procurement* | *Future Rotorcraft Capability element* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 3,900 | — |
| 2002-03 | 4,300 | — |
| 2003-04 | 4,300 | — |
| 2004-05 | 4,200 | — |
| 2005-06 | 4,300 | 4,000 |
| 2006-07 | RY | RY |
| 2007-08 | 5,600 | 4,100 |

RY = Review Year
—no formal recosting of the future budget took place.

These figures include funding for the introduction of new helicopters into service and to undertake significant modification programmes such as midlife enhancements or life extension activities; they do not include funding for emergent urgent requirements and separately funded commodity items. Figures prior to 2001 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The figures for financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03 are presented in accordance with previous accounting policies within the Department and reflect cash flows rather than the accrued value of the programme. Direct comparison of these costs with subsequent forecasts is not advised.

### Netherlands: International Co-operation

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of plans to create a UK/Netherlands EU battlegroup; and if he will make a statement. [169452]

**Des Browne:** The UK and the Netherlands have offered to provide an EU battlegroup on standby from January to June 2010. The battlegroup will come from the existing UK/Netherlands Amphibious Landing Force.

### Nuclear Responsibilities

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1033W, on nuclear responsibilities, what assessment he has made of the contribution the nuclear non-proliferation treaty has made towards nuclear disarmament. [169469]

**Des Browne:** The nuclear non-proliferation treaty makes an invaluable and irreplaceable contribution to multilateral nuclear disarmament and is the cornerstone of UK policy in this area. All actions that the UK undertakes on nuclear disarmament are concomitant to our legal obligations under Article VI of that treaty, which are equally applicable to the other recognised nuclear weapons states. The White Paper on The Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994),

published in December 2006, set out the UK's record on nuclear disarmament and announced the reduction of operationally available warheads to fewer than 160, which has now been achieved.

The NPT has now achieved near universality and includes states which renounced their nuclear weapons programmes when they joined the NPT as non-nuclear weapons states. We continue to call upon those remaining states outside the NPT to accede as non-nuclear weapons states.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings have taken place between UK and US officials on concept studies for the development of a new missile system to replace Trident with particular reference to the underwater launched missile system in the last three years. [168881]

**Des Browne:** Since the vote in this House on the future of the UK nuclear deterrent on 14 March 2007, there have been three meetings of the Joint Steering Task Group that oversees the execution of the Polaris sales agreement. Concept studies for the development of a new underwater launched missile system have been discussed by officials at those meetings.

### Reserve Forces: Pay

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Army Cadet force instructors and *(b)* Reserve officers on the Army unposted list are owed arrears of pay for a period of more than one month; and what the total of these arrears is. [169206]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* There are no systemic problems with the joint personnel administration (JPA) system affecting the pay of Army Cadet Force instructors and Reserve officers on the Army unposted list.

We are, however, aware of 45 Territorial Army personnel formerly on the unposted list who, because they were not on the established strength of a unit, may have experienced delays in receiving their pay. All have now been assigned to a unit and payment via the JPA system can be made. Details of how long arrears of pay may have been due, and the amounts involved are not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Where payment cannot be made via the JPA system, arrangements are in place for individuals to receive cash payments at unit level.

### Service Personnel and Veterans Agency: Location

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* effect on future expenditure of moving the Services Personnel and Veterans Agency from RAF Innsworth to HMS Centurian, Gosport; and if he will make a statement. [170644]

**Derek Twigg:** I have yet to receive the Business Case in support of the recent study into the future accommodation requirements of the Service; Personnel and Veterans Agency.

### Sick Leave: Dismissal

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163704]

**Derek Twigg:** Staff are not disciplined as the result of their poor sick record. Under the Department's restoring efficiency procedures, measures are applied to restore and maintain acceptable levels of attendance and deal with staff whose excessive sickness absence and attendance record has become a cause for concern. Employment can be terminated where patterns of irregular attendance from staff becomes unacceptable or where long term sickness absence persists and there is no prospect of a regular return to work. Staff also have their employment terminated when they are medically assessed as being so unwell in the longer term that ill-health retirement is approved. A new method of recording the termination of employment in the above circumstances was introduced in 2003 on a gradual basis. The data for 2003 are therefore unreliable. Data from 2004 until November 2007 are as follows:

| *Termination of employment for:* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Irregular attendance | 72 | 79 | 64 | 43 | 258 |
| Long term sickness absence | 59 | 73 | 59 | 48 | 239 |
| Ill-health retirement | 208 | 193 | 158 | 116 | 675 |
| Grand total | 339 | 345 | 281 | 207 | 1,172 |

### Special Boat Squadron: Pay

**Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the Special Boat Service personnel serving in Afghanistan to receive their full pay; [169202]

(2) when the Specialist Pay Team last paid the salaries of the Special Boat Service in Afghanistan; [169203]

(3) what steps he has taken with the Specialist Pay Team to ensure the payment of the full salaries of the Special Boat Service in Afghanistan. [169204]

**Derek Twigg** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* Problems have been identified with the specialist pay components of total salary for a small number of members of the Special Boat Service. This is very much regretted. I have asked for the issues to be investigated and I will write to the hon. Member when the investigation is complete.

### Submarines

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a decision has been taken to reduce the size of the attack submarine fleet below the planned total of eight. [164729]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Our judgment remains as set out in the 2004 Defence White Paper, "Delivering Security in a Changing World", that a fleet of eight of the current classes of attack submarines will be sufficient in the medium term to meet the full range of tasks. We expect to reduce to a fleet of eight attack submarines by December 2008.

For the future, the more capable Astute submarines will represent a significant addition to the delivery of effects-based warfare. Our current planning assumption envisages an attack fleet of seven submarines after 2022, but this will remain subject to review. Over the next 15 years, attack submarine numbers will fluctuate between seven and eight as the Astute submarine replaces the Swiftsure and Trafalgar class submarines.

### Territorial Army: Pay

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he approved the policy that the Territorial Army training bounty was a payment in lieu of pension; and if he will make a statement. [169884]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The annual training bounty is not a direct substitute for pension and takes into account a variety of factors. However, the relationship between pensions and bounty has been recognised for many years. For example, the 1978 Report of the Committee on the Study of Wastage in the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve (TAVR) headed by Major General P Shapland CB MBE stated:

"The Committee has discussed the possibility of replacing all or part of the bounty with either a Pension or a Long Service Gratuity and has concluded that neither are suitable for the TAVR."

In a recent employment tribunal it was held that the exclusion of the reserve forces from the armed forces pension scheme was objectively justified in respect of members of those forces undertaking Man Training Days. All forms of reserve service other than Man Training Days are pension earning.

### Trident: Finance

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated annual maintenance cost of the Trident weapons system is expected to be in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* each year until 2024. [169443]

**Des Browne:** The annual expenditure for capital and running costs of the current Trident nuclear deterrent, including costs for the Atomic Weapons Establishment, is expected to be around £1,500 million in 2007-08 and 2008-09, some 5 per cent. of the defence budget, and around £1,700 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11, some 5¼ per cent. of the defence budget. Spending plans for subsequent years will be set as part of the Government's spending review process.

### United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which private stakeholders his Department has met to discuss the review of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office. [169451]

**Derek Twigg:** The UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) is a trading fund within the Ministry of Defence. Departments routinely carry out reviews of trading funds from time to time as part of the ownership role. In February 2007, I announced that we would carry out a review of the structural and ownership options for the United Kingdom Hydro graphic Office (UKHO). This is due to report at the end of the year.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report,* columns 54-55W, outlining the number of private stakeholders the study team, led by members of the MOD, have met to discuss the review of the UKHO. These include trade associations, the Chart and Nautical Instrument Trade Association (CNITA) and the Locus Association, and 14 other private sector industry participants; these were:

The Landmark Information Group,
Transas Limited,
Serco,
Amey,
Kelvin Hughes,
Furuno,
Vanos SA,
Bogerd Martin,
Safmarine Container Lines,
Farstad Shipping Ltd,
McKeil Marine,
GasChem Services,
Brostrom Tankers SA,
Dorchester Maritime.

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many submissions from private sector companies the team carrying out the review of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office has received. [169449]

**Derek Twigg:** The UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) is a Trading Fund within the Ministry of Defence. Departments routinely carry out reviews of trading funds from time to time as part of the ownership role. In February 2007, I announced that we would carry out a review of the structural and ownership options for the United Kingdom Hydro graphic Office (UKHO). This is due to report at the end of the year.

During the course of the study four private sector companies wrote to us expressing their views, and in addition we received two detailed submissions from the Chart and Nautical Instrument Trade Association (CNITA) and Transas Limited. The study team met with a further 12 private sector organisations.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Citizens' Juries

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the guidelines were for the operation of citizens' juries in the 2006-07 Policy Review; and what the guidelines are for the operation of the citizens' juries announced by the Prime Minister on 3 September; and if he will make a statement. [165553]

**Edward Miliband:** The public engagement strand of the Policy Review gave a representative group of the population the opportunity to discuss in deliberative forums key issues around the future of public services. Ipsos MORI was engaged to manage the process including recruiting the population sample, developing stimulus material and running the events. Further information about the forums is available on the Cabinet Office website at the following address:

http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/policy_review/public_engagement/index.asp.

The Prime Minister announced on 3 September that a number of citizens' juries would be held around the country to bring citizens together to discuss a broad range of issues and potential solutions. Government Departments are leading on arrangements for their own citizens' juries.

### Data Protection

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* protocols govern the transfer of personal data between central Government departments and (i) other Government departments, (ii) local authorities and (iii) other Government agencies. [167683]

**Edward Miliband** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what reviews have been undertaken of the Cabinet Office's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of the Cabinet Office's compliance with data protection laws; and if the Office will undertake a review of its compliance with data protection laws; [168081]

(2) on how many occasions in the Cabinet Office confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs *(i)* without and *(ii)* with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures the Office has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by the Office being sent outside the Office; what changes have been made to the Office's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions the Office's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures the Office has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in the Office's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the Office's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168266]

(3) how many employees of each grade in the Cabinet Office *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of the Office's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of the Office has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of the Office for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168268]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether he proposes to review how the Cabinet Office transports data; and whether the Cabinet Office uses TNT to transport data. [169368]

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in the Cabinet Office in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence; [169900]

(2) how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in *(a)* the Prime Minister's Office and *(b)* the Leader of the House's Office in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170215]

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what procedures are in place in the Cabinet Office to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168460]

**Edward Miliband:** I refer the right hon. and hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether salaries have been paid from the public purse to *(a)* Bob Shrum and *(b)* Stan Greenberg since 27 June. [164725]

**Edward Miliband:** I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1075-76W. I can also confirm that Mr. Stan Greenberg has not received a salary from the Cabinet Office or 10 Downing street since 27 June.

### Downing Street Political Office

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what role the administrator of the Downing Street Political Office will play in arranging events *(a)* on Government property and *(b)* in Government facilities. [171467]

**The Prime Minister:** I have been asked to reply.

As was the practice under previous administrations and in accordance with the Ministerial Code, I have hosted a number of political events at Downing street. The costs for these events are met by the Labour Party.

### National Youth Volunteer Service: Finance

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what value of funds has been spent on the National Youth Volunteer Service by the private sector since January 2006. [167545]

**Phil Hope:** Since the youth-led volunteering charity v was established in May 2006, it has received pledges from the private sector totalling over £30 million. Of this amount, v has drawn down £8.4 million of the private sector funding, with a further £8.4 million match-funded by Government.

### Russell Commission: Grants

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which organisations have received grants from the Russell Commission since March 2006; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of those grants in enabling organisations to increase volunteering by young people; and if he will make a statement. [170291]

**Phil Hope:** The independent charity v was set up in May 2006 to implement recommendations of the 2005 Russell Commission report into youth action and engagement. The Office of the Third Sector has regular meetings with v to monitor progress against these targets.

Details of the organisations v has commissioned to provide short-term, part-time and full-time volunteering opportunities are set out in press releases published by v on 24 July 2006; 27 September 2006; and 26 March 2007 which are available on v's website at www.wearev.com.

In addition, through the Match Fund scheme, v has partnered with the private sector and has paid out £8.4 million to a further 73 organisations to generate volunteering opportunities for young people. Taken together, the total number of volunteering opportunities commissioned has now reached 210,000.

Through vcashpoint, a youth-led initiative to help young people aged 16-25 to set up their own community projects, v has awarded grants of up to £2,500 to 72 projects.

Last week v unveiled the organisations who will receive £75 million funding through its new national youth volunteering programme, vinvolved starting in April 2008. This is the first time that there will be a nationwide network of people and organisations focused on youth volunteering.

### Voluntary Organisations: Finance

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the projects which were approved under the Millennium Volunteer programme but which will no longer be funded from April 2008. [170147]

**Phil Hope:** v, an independent charity, made the decisions about future funding for Millennium Volunteers projects through an open and transparent commissioning process. To date over 200 third sector organisations have received funding through vinvolved. Sixty out of the 95 organisations will receive funding through vinvolved. Details of the successful organisations are available on v's website at www.wearev.com.

The following organisations currently providing MV projects did not make any application for funding through vinvolved or were unsuccessful at the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage:

1. Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
2. CEDAR Projects
3. Dearne Valley Venture
4. Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
5. Family Education Development Trust
6. Hackney Voluntary Action
7. Henshaws Society for Blind People
8. Leeds College of Technology
9. Nottingham City Council
10. Read on Write Away
11. Sports volunteering North West
12. Stoke on Trent College
13. Student Community Action Newcastle (SCAN)
14. Studentforce for Sustainability
15. Torridge Voluntary Services
16. Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency
17. Wycombe Youth Action
18. Youth Voice

The following organisations currently providing MV were unsuccessful at full application stage. However, this list is subject to change as in 14 local areas, v was unable to appoint vinvolved teams, v will be inviting the following organisations to reapply along with others through their further application process, details will be available on v's website week beginning 3 December 2007.

19. BVSC
20. Citizens Advice
21. DISC
22. EcoLocal
23. Hammersmith and Fulham Volunteer Centre
24. Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency
25. Oxfordshire Children and Voluntary Youth Services
26. Southend Association of Voluntary Services
27. St. Thomas Community Network
28. University of Birmingham Guild of Students
29. Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets
30. Wakefield Council
31. Watford and District YMCA

The following organisations will not (at this stage) receive funding through vinvolved but have been named in bids as strategic partners:

32. Blackpool Council (Integrated Youth Service)
33. Connexions Somerset Ltd.
34. Southwark Council
35. Worcestershire County Council Youth Service

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by her Office. [168094]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government Equalities Office is currently in the process of establishing itself as a separate department. In the interim, its personnel records are held by the Department of Communities and Local Government. Although DCLG check information to ensure people who apply for posts here are eligible to work, they do not record their nationality on their staff directory database.

## TRANSPORT

### Airports: Baggage

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she expects passengers using *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Bristol, *(c)* Glasgow, *(d)* Edinburgh and *(e)* Manchester airports to be allowed to take more than one item of hand luggage on their journey; [168670]

(2) when she expects passengers using *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Stansted and *(d)* Luton airports to be allowed to take more than one item of hand luggage with them on their journey; [168671]

(3) when she expects passengers using *(a)* Newcastle and *(b)* Cardiff airports to be allowed to take more than one item of hand luggage on their journey. [168672]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** My right hon. Friend's written statement of 14 November explained that airports may permit passengers to carry more than one item of hand luggage from 7 January 2008, provided they have been able to show that they have in place the screening capacity needed to handle the additional bags without any adverse impact on the standard of security achieved. It is now the responsibility of each airport to bring its plans to the Department for approval, as and when it is ready to do so.

### Airports: Immigration Controls

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on waiting times for immigration at *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* other UK airports. [168668]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Secretary of State has regular contact with Home Office Ministers to discuss ways in which the passenger experience at our major airports, including at immigration, can be improved.

"Improving the Air Passenger Experience" published on 21 November 2007, set out what Government are doing to improve end-to-end passenger journeys.

### Airports: Police

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the main features are of the police services agreement for designated airports; what costs are expected to arise from it; and upon whom these costs will fall. [170206]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Police service agreements need to specify the level of policing to be provided at each designated airport, to be determined following consultation with other security stakeholders, including industry, HM Revenue and Custom and the Border and Immigration Agency. They shall also specify the payments to be made by the airport manager in connection with that policing, and any accommodation and facilities to be provided by the manager.

### Airports: Security

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 14 November on national security, from which airports passengers will be allowed to fly with more than one item of hand luggage in 2008; and if she will make a statement. [165661]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** My right hon. Friend's written statement of 14 November explained that airports will be allowed to make changes to the one bag rule from 7 January 2008. Airport authorities are working with their key stakeholders (including airlines) to complete proposals which seek the Department's approval for the removal of the one cabin bag regulation at their airport. They will need to be able to show that they will have in place the screening capacity to be able to handle the additional cabin bags, whether by the use of new technology and procedures, or by deploying extra staff or other resources.

### Cars

**Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of car miles travelled in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006; and if she will make a statement. [170761]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Annual total car vehicle kilometres for 1997 and 2006 are available in Table 7.2 of Transport Statistics Great Britain 2007. This publication is available in the House of Commons Library or online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/2007edition/.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on consultants in each of the past five years. [164638]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Details of expenditure by the Department on consultants in each of the past five financial years is as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 227.5 |
| 2003-04 | 239.5 |
| 2004-05 | 193.3 |
| 2005-06 | 72.1 |
| 2006-07 | 82.9 |

The business units within the Department currently use separate accounting systems which record expenditure differently. The totals include either the value of purchase orders raised or actual spend incurred. Purchase order values record the anticipated spend level, but the actual invoice value for completed work may differ and could be paid in a future financial year.

The Professional Services Forum definition of consultancy has been applied since 2005-06 resulting in more accurate coding of expenditure.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of inquiries received by her Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167374]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Cabinet Office publishes a report to Parliament on an annual basis on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/ Peers correspondence. The report for 2006 was published by way of a written ministerial statement on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101W. Information for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the calendar year.

Information on handling correspondence from the public is not held in the required format.

### Departmental Land

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what land surplus to her Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168848]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The requested information has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the office costs for her Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164922]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Two civil servants support the special advisers to the Secretary of State for Transport. Both provide support of a non-political nature in accordance with the code of conduct for special advisers.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned. Office costs will be accounted for in the 2007-08 departmental annual report and accounts.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167340]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** In the financial year 2006-07 the Department's agencies spent £205,000 on work related to maintaining corporate identities. More than £90,000 relates to preventing internet fraud at DVLA.

### Departmental Special Advisers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who the special advisers in her Department are; what expertise each has; and what the cost of employing them was in the latest year for which figures are available. [163425]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 147-150WS.

### Driving: Disabled

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the viability of a temporary system of disability permits for those suffering from short-term limiting conditions lasting less than the three years required for receipt for the Blue Badge. [170569]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department recently conducted an independent strategic review of the Blue Badge Scheme which considered, among other things, who should be eligible for a badge and the issue of temporary disability. We will outline our plans in this area in a comprehensive Blue Badge Reform Strategy, which is due for publication by spring 2008.

### Excise Duties

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people renewed their vehicle excise duty online in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 to date. [170199]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is as follows.

3,793,557 people renewed their car tax online in 2006.

7,432,852 people renewed their car tax online up to 30 October 2007.

### Exhaust Emissions

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the number of cars in *(a)* England and *(b)* London which are in emissions bands (i) G, (ii) C-F and (iii) A-B. [169816]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of cars licensed (in thousands) at the end of December 2006 in London and England were as follows:

| | *All Cars* | *Band G* | *Band C-F* | *Band A-B* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| London | 2,569 | 14 | 1,049 | 21 |
| England | 23,612 | 113 | 11,162 | 312 |

### Haven Gateway Partnership

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had with (i) Haven Gateway Partnership and (ii) lobbyists engaged by Haven Gateway Partnership in the last 12 months. [166912]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** There have been no ministerial meetings with the Haven Gateway Partnership in the past 12 months. Representatives from the Highways Agency have attended two Haven Gateway Transport sub group meetings, and three Transport Forum meetings.

The partnership comprises a range of bodies and Ministers and officials will have met representatives from the individual bodies represented in the partnership in the course of regular business.

### Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167925]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Only one employee in the Central Department receives private health insurance as part of their employment package. None of the Department's agencies provide this employee benefit.

### Heathrow Airport

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many extra flights she has estimated will pass through the airspace of each London borough if a third runway is built at Heathrow Airport per *(a)* hour, *(b)* week and *(c)* year; [169299]

(2) if she will place in the Library information on the proposed flightpaths that would be created to serve a third runway at Heathrow Airport. [169300]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The aircraft routes for a third runway and mixed mode within the vicinity of Heathrow are only indicative and it is therefore not possible at this stage to state how many flights would pass through the airspace of each London borough.

The indicative flight paths are shown in the consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport", Figures 8-11 and 19-20. These figures give an estimated overview of the average number of daily departures and arrivals across the affected airspace.

A copy of this document has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department for Transport's website:

www.dft.gov.uk/heathrowconsultation

### Ports

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had with (i) Hutchinson Ports and (ii) lobbyists engaged by Hutchinson Ports in the last 12 months. [166980]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** I met Hutchison Ports senior managers on 18 October. Other ministerial meetings in the past 12 months with representatives of the ports industry, or industry conferences at which Hutchison Ports will have been represented, are the British Ports Association's (BPA) annual lunch in March, attended by the then Minister of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman), a meeting I had on 16 October with the UK Major Ports Group and the BPA, and a conference I attended, the first annual UK Ports and Shipping Forum, on 14 November.

Departmental and Highways Agency officials have had a series of meetings with Hutchison Ports over the past 12 months to discuss a variety of topics of relevance to the port including European and national port policy, contingency planning, and provision of rail and road infrastructure.

### Salisbury Railway Station: Closures

**Robert Key:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether, under the terms of their franchise, South West Trains is permitted to close the travel centre at Salisbury Railway Station *(a)* without consultation and *(b)* without equivalent alternative arrangements being made. [169287]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** South West Trains cannot close the Travel Centre at Salisbury Station without consultation, unless the facility will be used for an alternative railway use such as a waiting room. Such closures can be treated as a minor modification which is governed by the closure provisions in the Railways Act 2005.

### Trains: Standards

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a journey in a Desiro Class 450 train unit to assess the level of passenger comfort provided. [169825]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Officials from the Department, acting for the Secretary of State, have made multiple journeys on the Desiro Class 450 trains to assess the level of comfort.

Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) have carried out an ergonomic study on the class 450s. The findings of this report have been independently reviewed by Passenger Focus, the passenger representation body, and have been made public by SSWT on their website.

### Transport: Research

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of how her Department's spending programme for each of the next three years will reflect the priorities identified in the Eddington review; and if she will make a statement. [165974]

**Jim Fitzpatrick** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]*: In the Department's response to the Eddington study, 'Towards a Sustainable Transport System' (Cm 7226), figure 3.1 sets out the Department's spending plans, for the next three years and beyond, against the three major areas of investment highlighted by Eddington: city and regional networks, national networks, and international networks.

In implementing the comprehensive spending review settlement, the Department will look at all uncommitted funding decisions to ensure that these are consistent with the Eddington study and with the Stern review. The best transport solutions will be those that give the biggest contribution, per £1 of taxpayers' funding, to the Department's five goals of:

maximising the competitiveness and productivity of the economy;

cutting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases;

protecting people's safety, security and health;

improving quality of life; and

promoting greater equality of opportunity.

### Transport: Sustainable Development

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on producing the White Paper, Towards a Sustainable Transport System; and how many copies were printed. [168684]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The total publication costs for the discussion document, "Towards a Sustainable Transport System: Supporting Economic Growth in a Low Carbon World" is £11,175.96 (not including VAT). This includes the cost for typesetting, printing, publication costs, use of copyright and mailing services.

The aforementioned costs do not include the time taken for officials to prepare the document.

In total, 922 copies were printed off in the initial run. The Department for Transport received 380 copies, the Stationery Office received 350 copies, and the remainder were directly distributed to key stakeholders.

To keep down costs, the report is also available on the Department for Transport website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/

### Woodhead Southerly Tunnel

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the National Grid on its plans to lay cables along the Woodhead Southerly Tunnel. [167555]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions with national grid on its plans to lay cables in the Woodhead Southerly Tunnel, which it owns.

## JUSTICE

### Criminal Law

**Mr. Malins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which measures enacted in criminal justice legislation over the last five years are not yet in force; and if he will make a statement. [166173]

**Maria Eagle:** The majority of measures enacted in Criminal Justice legislation over the past five years have been implemented.

The Serious Crime Act 2007 and the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 were given royal assent this year and are not yet in force.

There are various minor measures in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 relating to the consequential amendments and repeals of provisions in other legislation that have yet to be enacted. The operation of the legislation has not been adversely affected.

The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 was commenced on 1 October 2007 except in so far as it inserts new provisions into the Public Order Act 1986.

In respect of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, this Act contains provision that relate to matters of which the owners are not the Ministry of Justice (or the Home Office). The information in respect of this Act could therefore be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The following table shows measures enacted in other pieces of legislation that are not yet in force.

| *Act* | *Provisions not in force* |
|---|---|
| Crime (International Co-Operation) Act 2003 | 32 sections (10-12, 20-25, 90, 54-75) and 2 schedules (3 and 4). |
| Criminal Justice Act 2003 | 26 sections (33-35,43, 50-54, 56, 62-66,137-138, 151, 154-155, 181, 188, 280-283) and 7 schedules (4, 11, 21, 22,25-27). |
| | 26 sections (14, 15, 22, 27, 29-30, 31, 39, 41, 48, 182-187, 196, 204, 213, 216, 244, 266, 279, 300-301, 303) and 8 schedules (2-3,10, 31, 32, 35, 37, 38) are partially in force. |
| Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 | 13 sections (9, 12-13, 15-16, 46, 48-53, 51) and 2 schedules (8-9). |
| | 1 section (54) and 3 schedules are partially in force (10-12). |
| Drugs Act 2005 | 1 section (2). |
| Offender Management Act 2007 | 23 sections (1-15, 21-24, 28-30, 31) and 2 schedules (1-2). |
| | 3 schedules (3-5) are partially in force. |
| Police and Justice Act 2006 | 14 sections (7, 14, 19-21, 34, 35-38, 39-40, 41, 43) and 4 schedules (5, 8, 11-12). |
| | 1 section (46) and 1 schedule (1) are partially in force. |
| Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 | 6 sections (117, 120-121, 158, 167, 170). |
| | 18 sections (60-70, 79-81, 144, 162,165, 167) and 7 schedules (4, 5, 9,10, 13, 14, 17) are partially in force. |
| Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 | 22 sections (1-14, 15-20, 59, 61). |

### Departmental Domestic Visits

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what visits *(a)* he and *(b)* the Minister of State with responsibility for prisons have undertaken to (i) prisons, (ii) young offender institutions and (iii) secure training centres since 28 June 2007. [170008]

**Mr. Hanson:** Details of the prisons, young offender institutions and secure training centres visited by Ministry of Justice Ministers since 28 June 2007 are set out as follows.

*Visits to prisons, young offender institutions and secure training centres since 28 June 2007*

| | Visit |
|---|---|
| *Jack Straw* | |
| 12 July 2007 | HMP Belmarsh |
| 14 September 2007 | HMP Preston |
| 14 September 2007 | HMYOI and RC Lancaster Farms |
| 4 October 2007 | HMYOI Thorn Cross |
| 4 October 2007 | HMP Manchester |
| *David Hanson* | |
| 28 June 2007 | HMP Wandsworth |
| 5 July 2007 | HMP and YOI Chelmsford |
| 12 July 2007 | HMP and YOI East Sutton Park |
| 31 July 2007 | HMP Coldingley |
| 1 August 2007 | HMP Lowdham Grange |
| 7 August 2007 | HMP Acklington |
| 7 August 2007 | HMP and YOI Castington |
| 10 September 2007 | HMP Birmingham |
| 18 September 2007 | HMP and YOI Hindley |
| 20 September 2007 | Rainsbrook STC |
| 3 October 2007 | HMP Cardiff |
| 3 October 2007 | HMP Parc |
| 29 October 2007 | HMP and YOI Holloway |
| 1 November 2007 | Oakhill Secure Training Centre |
| 16 November 2007 | HMP Liverpool |
| 29 November 2007 | HMP Pentonville |
| *Lord Hunt* | |
| 5 July 2007 | HMP Birmingham |
| 10 September 2007 | HMP Low Newton |
| 12 July 2007 | Rainsbrook STC |
| 19 November 2007 | HMP Gloucester |
| *Maria Eagle* | |
| 26 July 2007 | HMP Pentonville |
| 5 September 2007 | HMP Norwich |
| 5 September 2007 | HMP Wayland |
| 6 September 2007 | HMYOI Stoke Heath |
| 10 September 2007 | HMP Whitemoor |
| 13 November 2007 | HMP and YOI Holloway |

*Key:*
HMP—Her Majesty's Prison'
HMYOI—Her Majesty's Young Offender Institution
HMRC—Her Majesty's Remand Centre
STC—Secure Training Centre

## Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what entertainment or hospitality members of the Department's management board have received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164742]

**Maria Eagle:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

## Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how his Department plans to handle complaints about the management of compensation claims of miners when the original claimant has died but a surviving family member wishes to pursue the complaint on their behalf. [170558]

**Bridget Prentice:** Responsibility for dealing with complaints about solicitors is solely a matter for the Law Society rather than Government, since the legal profession is independent.

I understand from the Law Society that:

Where the original claimant of miners compensation has deceased, the estate (or those acting on behalf of their dependants) can make a complaint to the Legal Complaints Service about how the original claim was handled by a solicitor.

This arrangement applies for existing and future cases and is not limited to miners compensation cases, rather is part of general LCS policy.

If a solicitor failed to comply with a decision by an adjudicator to pay compensation to the family of a deceased client, the case would be referred to the Solicitors Regulation Authority, who would ask the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal to order enforcement of the compensation decision.

In future all Legal complaints will be handled by the Office for Legal Complaints Ombudsman Scheme, as provided for by the Legal Services Act 2007, which will be completely independent of legal professions. The OLC is expected to be operational by late 2010.

## Information Commissioner: Complaints

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints the Information Commissioner has processed in the last 12 months; what was the average amount of time taken by the Information Commissioner to process these complaints; how many of these complaints have taken over *(a)* six months, *(b)* 12 months and *(c)* 24 months to be processed; and if he will make a statement. [169019]

**Mr. Wills:** The ICO is the UK's independent authority set up to promote access to official information and to protect personal information.

The ICO receives complaints under the Data Protection Act (DPA), the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR), the Freedom of Information Act (FOI), and the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR).

Figures are available until the end of October 2007 as set out in the table as follows.

| | Total complaints completed | Average completion time (days) | Completed cases taking over 6 months | Completed cases taking over 12 months | Completed cases taking over 24 months |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DPA and PECR | 12,092 | 46 | 346 | 38 | 6 |
| FOI and EIR | 1,564 | 176 | 527 | 335 | 56 |

### Issuance of Penalty Notices for Disorder

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the answers of *(a)* 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1027-28W, *(b)* 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1252W, and *(c)* 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 111W, on the issuance of penalty notices for disorder for 10 to 15-year-olds, what factors have contributed to the length of time it has taken to publish the evaluation of the pilot project; and when the evaluation report was first given to Ministers; [170085]

(2) how many penalty notices for disorder have been issued to 10 to 15-year-olds in the six pilot police force areas, broken down by *(a)* police force area and *(b)* offences committed; and how many such penalty notices were (i) paid in full within the 21 day suspended enforcement period, (ii) paid in full outside the 21 day suspended enforcement period, (iii) registered as fines, (iv) contested in court and (v) cancelled; [170086]

(3) what plans he has to extend the use of penalty notices for disorder to persons under the age of 16 years. [170087]

**Mr. Hanson:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 112W, the evaluation report will be published as soon as possible. The report is going through validation and until that has been completed, it cannot be published. Also, as that process has not been completed, the report has not yet been seen by Ministers. The report will contain details of the number of notices issued and other details such as payment rates but until it is published, I am not in a position to provide that information. No decision has been made about extending the use of penalty notices for under-16s.

### Medical Treatment

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 820W, on consent to medical treatment, when he expects the Public Guardian to produce the first annual report on the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. [169470]

**Bridget Prentice:** The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (the MCA) is now fully in force and the new Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) and Court of Protection were formally launched on 1 October 2007.

The MCA gives the Public Guardian statutory functions and requires him to make an annual report to the Lord Chancellor about the discharge of those functions. The first annual report of the Office of the Public Guardian will be published in April 2008 covering the operation of the Agency and the Public Guardian's statutory responsibilities.

The OPG is also responsible for management of policy surrounding Mental Capacity and is planning an initial review of the MCA a year after enactment.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to reply to the letter of 23 July from the hon. Member for Torbay concerning Mr. David Newby. [170142]

**Mr. Hanson:** I apologise for the delay. I have now written to the hon. Member.

### Peterborough Prison

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held at HM Prison Peterborough as at 31 October 2007; and if he will make a statement. [169583]

**Mr. Hanson:** At the end of October 2007 there were 967 prisoners in Peterborough prison. This consisted of 621 males and 346 females.

This figure is taken from the October 2007 Population in Custody report which is available at the following website

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

### Political Parties: Finance

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will ask the Electoral Commission to report on *(a)* the suitability of existing safeguards against anonymous donations and *(b)* the extent to which the Abrahams' case is an isolated incident. [170782]

**Mr. Straw:** The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) contains a range of requirements to ensure that the source of donations is declared.

I announced on 25 November that I was seeking advice on the matters raised by *The Mail on Sunday* report of that date.

The Electoral Commission announced on 26 November that they had launched a formal investigation into whether there has been any failure to comply with the provisions of PPERA in connection with a number of donations made to the Labour party. The Commission has now referred matters to the Metropolitan Police Service. It is not therefore appropriate for the Government to comment on this matter.

## Prison Sentences

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those convicted of burglary received a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* North West Cambridgeshire. [169251]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table gives the proportion of offenders that received a custodial sentence for burglary from 1995 to 2005. The figures are given for England and Wales and for Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Area (CJA) as data for areas within CJAs are not available. They cover burglary in a dwelling and other burglaries.

| | *England and Wales* | | | *Cambridgeshire* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Sentenced* | *Immediate custody* | *Proportion (Percentage)* | *Sentenced* | *Immediate custody* | *Proportion (Percentage)* |
| 1995 | 35,450 | 13,497 | 38 | 441 | 144 | 33 |
| 1996 | 32,388 | 13,503 | 42 | 318 | 131 | 41 |
| 1997 | 31,656 | 14,338 | 45 | 394 | 167 | 42 |
| 1998 | 31,087 | 14,547 | 47 | 381 | 162 | 43 |
| 1999 | 29,329 | 14,345 | 49 | 406 | 145 | 36 |
| 2000 | 26,694 | 13,677 | 51 | 313 | 160 | 51 |
| 2001 | 24,665 | 12,476 | 51 | 310 | 153 | 49 |
| 2002 | 26,376 | 13,350 | 51 | 335 | 174 | 52 |
| 2003 | 25,360 | 11,820 | 47 | 340 | 189 | 56 |
| 2004 | 24,133 | 10,814 | 45 | 300 | 148 | 49 |
| 2005 | 22,652 | 9,550 | 42 | 238 | 119 | 50 |

## Prison Service: Emergencies

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what type of events are classed as operational emergencies in the Prison Service. [169994]

**Maria Eagle:** An operational emergency may result from a range of scenarios involving the management of prisoners and the prison estate. For specific purposes, the term operational emergency is defined in two documents. Bulletin 8, setting out terms and conditions of employment for prison officers, defines an operational emergency as a protracted emergency attendance involving the majority of available staff—for example, concerted indiscipline or passive demonstration.

Schedule III of the Joint Industrial Relations Procedural Agreement between the Prison Service and the Prison Officers Association defines an operational emergency as an occasion where staff will be required to act contrary to the terms of an agreement whether national or local, when events make such action necessary having been identified as a clear operational emergency.

## Prisoners Release

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners recalled from release on end of custody licence (ECL) for reoffending have been convicted of offences committed while on ECL; and what offences have been so committed; [164355]

(2) how many prisoners released on end of custody licence were recalled *(a)* to each prison and *(b)* in each prison region for reoffending from (i) 29 June to 5 July, (ii) 6 July to 31 July, (iii) 1 August to 31 August, (iv) 1 September to 30 September and (v) 1 October to 31 October. [164356]

**Mr. Hanson:** 56 prisoners recalled from the End of Custody Licence scheme for re-offending have been convicted for offences committed while on ECL according to information provided by the Police National Computer on 26 November 2007. Expressed in percentage terms, 0.5 per cent. of offenders released on ECL have been convicted of offences committed while on ECL.

The offenders were convicted of 83 offences, which are listed in the following table:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Assault | 12 |
| Breach of ASBO | 5 |
| Breach of conditional discharge | 1 |
| Burglary | 6 |
| Criminal damage | 5 |
| Driving offences | 17 |
| Drugs offences | 4 |
| Drunk and disorderly | 6 |
| Failing to surrender to bail | 3 |
| Failing to surrender to custody at appointed time | 1 |
| Harassment | 4 |
| Robbery | 1 |
| Sexual assault | 1 |
| Theft | 17 |

Between 29 June and 31 October 120 prisoners were recalled for alleged reoffending during the period they were subject to the end of custody licence scheme. This represents 1 per cent. of the prisoners released onto the scheme. According to data held on the Prison Service Inmate Information System, 110 of these have been returned to custody. Table 1 shows the establishments to which the 110 prisoners were returned to. The figure in brackets denotes the number of offenders returned to that establishment in the specific month. Table 2 shows the breakdown by region.

*Table 1: Prisons to which offenders recalled for alleged re-offending were returned*

| | *Prisons* |
|---|---|
| 29 June-5 July | Swansea |
| | Bedford |
| | Deerbolt |
| 6 July-31 July | Castington |
| | Holloway |
| | Bristol |
| | Woodhill (2) |
| | Liverpool |
| | Parc |
| | Durham (3) |
| | Exeter (3) |
| | Everthorpe |
| | Guy's Marsh |
| | Leicester |
| | Bedford |
| | Northallerton |
| | Doncaster (4) |
| | Eastwood Park (2) |
| | Lincoln |
| | Glen Parva |
| | Elmley |
| | Forest Bank (2) |
| | Portland |
| | Cardiff |
| | New Hall (2) |
| | Holme House |
| | Preston |
| | Stoke Heath |
| | Leeds |
| 1 August -31 August | Everthorpe |
| | Leeds |
| | Blakenhurst (2) |
| | Durham (4) |
| | Bronzefield |
| | Elmley |
| | Doncaster (3) |
| | Northallerton |
| | Woodhill |
| | Ford |
| | Hull |
| | Glen Parva (2) |
| | High Down |
| | Leicester |
| | Shrewsbury (2) |
| | Bullingdon |
| | Chelmsford |
| | Preston |
| 1 September-30 September | Stoke Heath |
| | Portland |
| | Elmley |
| | Bronzefield |
| | Manchester |
| | Blakenhurst |
| | Leicester |
| | Northallerton |
| | Leeds |
| | Exeter |
| | Lewes |
| | Doncaster |
| | Hull |
| 1 October -31 October | Lancaster Farms |
| | Northallerton |
| | Bronzefield |
| | Rochester |
| | Doncaster (3) |
| | Bristol |
| | Bedford |
| | Blakenhurst |
| | Dorchester |
| | Forest Bank |
| | Glen Parva |
| | Woodhill (2) |
| | Durham |
| | Peterborough |
| | High Down |
| | Styal |
| | Lindholme (2) |
| | Elmley (2) |
| | Holme House |
| | Cardiff |
| | Manchester |
| | Parc |
| | Hull (2) |
| | Reading |
| | Exeter |

*Table 2: Number of prisoners returned to custody following recall for alleged reoffending while on ECL, as broken down by Prison Service regions*

| *Prison region* | *29 June-5 July* | *6-31 July* | *1-31 August* | *1-30 September* | *1-31 October* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 1 | 5 | 4 | — | 2 |
| North West | — | 4 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | — | 9 | 7 | 4 | 7 |

*Table 2: Number of prisoners returned to custody following recall for alleged reoffending while on ECL, as broken down by Prison Service regions*

| Prison region | 29 June-5 July | 6-31 July | 1-31 August | 1-30 September | 1-31 October |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wales | 1 | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| West Midlands | — | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| East Midlands | — | 3 | 3 | 1 | — |
| Eastern | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 2 |
| South West | — | 8 | — | 2 | 4 |
| South Central | — | 2 | 3 | — | 4 |
| London | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Kent and Sussex | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released from prison early by mistake over the last five years; how early the release was in each case; and of what offences each prisoner had been convicted. [169601]

**Mr. Hanson:** The available information is as follows:

It is a mandatory requirement that prisons check the correctness of the calculation of a prisoner's release date 14 days and two days before release. At this point a check is also made to ensure that there is no other reason a prisoner should be detained in custody such as if they are remanded to custody on further charges or held on immigration matters. Additionally re-calculations and checks are also carried out during the course of the sentence, should a prisoner be transferred from one establishment to another. Prison Service Order 6650 provides details of the sentence calculation checks required.

The numbers of known releases in error are reported to the National Operations Unit in Her Majesty's Prison Service by establishments. During 2005, there were 32 known releases in error reported to the National Operations Unit; during, 2006 there were 36; and during 2007, up to 28 November, there were 28.

Information on how early the release was in each case and the details of the offences is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## Prisoners: Education

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what basic skills education and training courses are *(a)* available and *(b)* planned for prisoners at HMP Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [169564]

**Mr. Hanson:** Details of basic skills education and training courses currently available at HMP Peterborough are outlined in the table.

The Education Department and workshops at HMP Peterborough are working closely with the Open College Network to deliver new accredited courses in 2008 in such areas as horticulture, beauty therapy, personnel development, catering, construction and hairdressing. The intention is to deliver more of the basic skills training in workshops rather than through classroom delivery. These vocational courses will help to increase the chances of prisoners securing employment on release.

*Courses currently available at HMP Peterborough*

| *Accredited basic skills education courses* | *Training courses* |
|---|---|
| Literacy at Entry Level 1, 2 and 3 is delivered to prisoners that have very low levels of reading and writing and some that are illiterate. Level 1 and Level 2 literacy are delivered to prisoners that have greater ability but may have attended school sporadically or not sat any examinations. | BICS—British Institute of Cleaning Sciences Level 1 and 2 |
| Numeracy at Entry Levels (as above) and Level 1 and 2 are also delivered in the classroom. | CIEH—Manual handling and Basic Food hygiene |
| ESOL is delivered to prisoners where English is not their first language. It is currently not an accredited course but will be accredited with the Open College network in 2008. | Appointed persons first aid |
| Literacy and numeracy are embedded and delivered in workshop areas such as the gym and the Kleaning Academy. | VRQ—Assistant instructors Level 1 |
| Other educational courses include art classes, business studies, pre-release, speaking and listening. | British Safety Council Level 1 Health and Safety |
| | A range of personal and social development courses such as wellbeing for female prisoners, parenting courses, self employment workshops and alcohol awareness. |

## Prisons: Manpower

**Geraldine Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what circumstances a prison governor may call off-duty prison officers back into work. [169995]

**Maria Eagle:** A prison governor may call off-duty officers back into work in response to an operational emergency, if there is a need to ensure minimum staffing levels are maintained or due to unavoidable or unforeseen operational reasons such as a delay in returning from outside the prison.

## Sentencing

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of offenders sentenced in 2006 to *(a)* imprisonment for public protection sentences, *(b)* determinate sentences of over four years and *(c)* determinate sentences of between one and four years, (i) were first time offenders, (ii) had between one and four previous convictions, (iii) had between five and nine previous offences and (iv) had 10 or more previous offences. [170152]

**Mr. Hanson:** We currently do not have data on offenders discharged from prison for 2006 by previous offending patterns. The latest data available are from first quarter of 2004.

We also do not have data for the requested data splits of (i) 0, (ii) 1-4, (iii) 5- 9 and (iv) 10 plus, instead we can provide the following data splits: 0, 1-2, 3-6, 7-10 and 11 plus.

The following table show the percentage of offenders discharged from prison in 2004 and the respective number of previous offences:

| *Number of previous offences* | *Percentage sentenced in first quarter of 2004* |
|---|---|
| No previous offences | 7.5 |
| Between 1 and 2 offences | 5.4 |
| Between 3 and 6 offences | 9.1 |
| Between 7 and 10 offences | 7.2 |
| Greater than 10 offences | 70.8 |

Data for 2005 cohort will be available by spring 2008, and data on 2006 will be available by summer 2008.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced to *(a)* indeterminate sentences with a tariff of under 24 months and *(b)* determinate sentences of over four years for (i) rape, (ii) attempted rape, (iii) sexual assault, (iv) other sexual offences, (v) grievous bodily harm and (vi) manslaughter in the last year for which figures are available. [170153]

**Mr. Hanson:** All the information relates to 2005, the last year for which data were available.

Data for the number of offenders serving an indeterminate sentence with a tariff of under 24 months are not available for 2005.

In 2005 the number of offenders serving a determinate sentence of four years and over for the offences specified is given as follows:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| (i) rape | 582 |
| (ii) attempted rape | 71 |
| (iii) sexual assault | 104 |
| (iv) other sexual offences | 303 |
| (v) grievous bodily harm | 876 |
| (vi) manslaughter | 148 |

These figures include those persons sentenced to life and indeterminate sentences for public protection.

## Young Offenders: Drugs

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of young people supervised under the auspices of the Youth Offending Teams who habitually use cannabis; and if he will make a statement. [169481]

**Mr. Hanson:** Data are not collected centrally on the number of young people subject to YOT supervision who habitually use cannabis, so no estimate has been made.

The YJB do collect data on the number of young people identified as requiring general substance misuse assessment and accessing early intervention and treatment services. These figures are set out in the following tables and will include young people identified as being users of cannabis.

*Table 1: Young offenders reported as 'requiring' assessment, early intervention and treatment across England and Wales for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07*

| | *Requiring assessment* | *Requiring early intervention (tier 2)* | *Requiring specialist treatment (tier 3 and 4)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 17,524 | 8,224 | 3,327 |
| 2005-06 | 15,414 | 9,141 | 4,293 |
| 2006-07 | 14,448 | 8,230 | 5,029 |

*Table 2: Young offenders reported as 'receiving' assessment within 10 days of screening, and receiving an intervention within 20 days of screening*

| | *Receiving assessment* | *Receiving early intervention (tier 2)* | *Receiving specialist treatment (tier 3 and 4)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 12,885 | 7,672 | 2,973 |
| 2005-06 | 13,150 | 8,786 | 4,088 |
| 2006-07 | 13,375 | 7,915 | 4,823 |

*Note:*
Tiers 2, 3 and 4 refer to levels of service required for substance misuse issues of low, medium or high severity.

## Young Offenders: Injuries

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what injuries were incurred by girls held in *(a)* Brockhill, *(b)* Bullwood Hall and *(c)* Cookham Wood Young Offenders Institution following use of control and restraint in each month in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [167801]

**Maria Eagle:** The Prison Service definition of 'girls' in the context of prisoners is those aged 15-17. Brockhill held no such prisoners during 2006-07. At Bullwood Hall one girl sustained an injury during use of force in January 2006 which was recorded as "small red marks on upper arm". At Cookham Wood one girl sustained an injury in December 2006 and one in March 2007 recorded as "bruised wrist" and "bang to the head", respectively.

# COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Alcohol: Sales

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* public houses, *(b)* restaurants and *(c)* supermarkets,

shops and other licensed retail outlets were caught by trading standards officers selling alcohol to persons under the aged of 18 years in each of the last three years for which figures are available, broken down by local authority; [168700]

(2) how many visits were undertaken by or on behalf of trading standards officers to *(a)* public houses, *(b)* restaurants and *(c)* supermarkets, shops and other licensed outlets to check compliance with the terms of licences in connection with the sale of alcohol. [168701]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I have been asked to reply.

This information is not centrally held, however, records of visits and prosecutions may be kept locally.

Visits by Trading Standards officers to licensed premises will not necessarily be solely in relation to Licensing Act 2003. For example they may also visit on grounds relating to weights and measures legislation or trade descriptions legislation.

### Bellwin Scheme

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many authorities have received 100 per cent. of eligible costs incurred due to the July flooding under the Bellwin scheme; [166228]

(2) what the largest amount of money paid out under the Bellwin scheme to a local authority that incurred costs in the July flooding is; [166227]

(3) how much financial compensation local authorities affected by flooding in July have requested under the Bellwin scheme; [166226]

(4) how much funding she estimates will be provided to local authorities under the Bellwin scheme in 2007; [166223]

(5) how many local authorities affected by flooding in July 2007 have applied for funding through the Bellwin scheme; [166222]

(6) how much funding has been provided to local councils under the Bellwin scheme in response to the effects of the July 2007 floods. [166221]

**John Healey:** No local authorities have yet applied for funding through the Bellwin scheme for the flooding in July 2007 but 52 authorities have registered an intention to do so. We stand ready to make payments within 15 working days of receiving valid claims which will, exceptionally, be at 100 per cent. of eligible costs above threshold.

I recently wrote to all registered authorities to remind them that we will also pay interim claims of up to 80 per cent. of incurred expenditure straight away. As yet, no claims—interim or final—have been made.

Information is still being collected from local authorities to enable an estimate of the total funding that will be provided under the Bellwin scheme in 2007.

### Crime Prevention

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the terms of reference are of the cross-departmental review on how best to engage communities in the fight against crime; and when the findings of this review are expected to be published. [167122]

**Edward Miliband:** I have been asked to reply.

'Engaging communities in fighting crime' is a policy review that aims to understand how local communities, the police, the local criminal justice agencies and other local partners can best work together to:

reduce crime in their areas,

raise community confidence in local agencies,

lower the fear of crime.

The full terms of reference are as follows:

A key strand of the review will analyse how to engage individuals, including young people, across the whole range of issues that affect their feelings of safety in the community.

The review will make recommendations on improving local accountability, increasing local engagement (including willingness to support law enforcement through the provision of evidence) and developing new approaches to problem solving.

The review shall take full account of the Ten Year Youth Strategy, the work already under way as part of Sir Ronnie Flanagan's review of policing, the current roll-out of Neighbourhood Policing and work of the National Policing Improvement Agency in this area, and shall examine how best to build on the success of Neighbourhood Policing and transfer good practice across all crime fighting agencies including local authority, the Third Sector etc.

The review team will be drawn from all Departments with an interest and led from the Cabinet Office by Louise Casey.

The review will report by June 2008.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in her departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166647]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw) on 8 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 19WS.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what reviews have been undertaken of her Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if she will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of her Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws; [168084]

(2) on how many occasions in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures her Department has in place

for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by her Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to her Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions her Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures her Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in her Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each of her Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168250]

(3) how many employees of each grade in her Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disc; how many of her Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) her Department and (ii) her Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of her Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168269]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November, *Official Report*, column 1179 in which he announced a review to be carried out by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts across all Departments and agencies of their procedures for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures are in place in her Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168480]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer my hon. Friend to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168752]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many breaches of data protection security there were in her Department or her Department's agencies in each of the last five years; and if she will provide details of each breach. [168843]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the office costs for her Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164933]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Two civil servants support the special advisers in the offices of the Secretary of State and the Minister for Housing. Both civil servants provide support of a non-political nature, in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. They also provide support to the private offices.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

### Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in her Department and its predecessors were paid over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167188]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following table presents the numbers of staff earning an annual salary of more than £100,000 in each complete financial year since the formation of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in May 2002. The information is drawn from published departmental annual reports.

| | *Department to which figure refers* | *Number of staff with salary exceeding £100,000 pa* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | Communities and Local Government | 18 |
| 2005-06 | Office of the Deputy Prime Minister | 13 |
| 2004-05 | Office of the Deputy Prime Minister | 11 |
| 2003-04 | Office of the Deputy Prime Minister | 10 |

### Development Plans

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have *(a)* submitted area action plans, *(b)* had area action plans approved and *(c)* withdrawn area action plans under the new local development framework. [168950]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The information requested is in the following table.

*(a) Submitted area action plans*

| *Local Authority* | *Title* |
|---|---|
| Bedford BC | Town Centre Area Action Plan |
| Chelmsford BC | Chelmsford Town Centre AAP |
| South Cambridgeshire DC | Cambridge Southern Fringe AAP |
| South Cambridgeshire DC | Cambs East AAP |
| South Cambridgeshire DC | Northstowe AAP |
| Hounslow LBC | Brentford |
| Kingston upon Thames LBC | Kingston Town Centre AAP |
| Redbridge LBC | Ilford AAP |
| Tower Hamlets LBC | City Fringe - withdrawn |
| Tower Hamlets LBC | Isle of Dogs - withdrawn |
| Tower Hamlets LBC | Leaside - withdrawn |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne Council | Walker Riverside Area Action Plan DPD |
| South Tyneside MBC | South Shields Town Centre and Waterfront |
| South Tyneside MBC | Hebburn Town Centre Area Action Plan |
| Oxford Council | Oxford's West End Action Area Plan |
| Portsmouth Council | Southsea Town Centre Area Action Plan |
| Tonbridge and Mailing BC | Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan |
| Plymouth Council | Millbay/Stonehouse Area Action Plan |
| Plymouth Council | North Plymstock (including Minerals) AAP |
| Plymouth Council | Sutton Harbour AAP |
| Plymouth Council | Devonport Area Action Plan |
| Restormel BC | Newquay Action Plan |
| South Hams DC | Sherford New Community Area Action Plan |
| Taunton Deane BC | Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan |
| Newcastle Under Lyme BC | Newcastle Town Centre Action Plan |
| Sandwell MBC | Tipton Area Action Plan |
| Sandwell MBC | Smethwick AAP |
| Staffordshire Moorlands DC | AAP Biddulph Town Centre |
| Total | 28 |

*(b) Had Area Action Plans approved*

| *Local Authority* | *Title* |
|---|---|
| South Cambridgeshire DC | Cambridge Southern Fringe AAP |
| South Cambridgeshire DC | Northstowe AAP |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne Council | Walker Riverside Area Action Plan DPD |
| Portsmouth Council | Southsea Town Centre Area Action Plan |
| Plymouth Council | Millbay/Stonehouse Area Action Plan |
| Plymouth Council | North Plymstock (including Minerals) AAP |
| Plymouth Council | Devonport Area Action Plan |
| South Hams DC | Sherford New Community Area Action Plan |
| Staffordshire Moorlands DC | AAP Biddulph Town Centre |
| Total | 9 |

*(c) Have withdrawn area action plans following submission*

| *Local Authority* | *Title* |
|---|---|
| Tower Hamlets LBC | City Fringe - withdrawn |
| Tower Hamlets LBC | Isle of Dogs - withdrawn |
| Tower Hamlets LBC | Leaside - withdrawn |
| Total | 3 |

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities' area action plans are subject to current planning inspectors' examinations. [168951]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The following local authorities have area action plans that are subject to current planning inspector's examinations.

| *Local authority* | *Title* |
|---|---|
| Bedford BC | Town Centre Area Action Plan |
| Chelmsford BC | Chelmsford Town Centre AAP |
| South Cambridgeshire DC | Cambs East AAP |
| Hounslow LBC | Brentford |
| Kingston Upon Thames LBC | Kingston Town Centre AAP |
| RedbridgeLBC | Ilford AAP |
| South Tyneside MBC | South Shields Town Centre and Waterfront |
| South Tyneside MBC | Hebburn Town Centre Area Action Plan |
| Oxford Council | Oxford's West End Action Area Plan |
| Tonbridge and Mailing BC | Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan |
| Plymouth Council | Sutton Harbour AAP |
| Taunton Deane BC | Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan |
| Newcastle Under Lyme BC | Newcastle Town Centre Action Plan |
| Sandwell MBC | Tipton Area Action Plan |
| Sandwell MBC | Smethwick AAP |
| Total | 15 |

## Enterprise and Workless Fund: Torbay

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the Enterprise and Workless Fund on the economy of Torbay and the area's ability to attract grant funding; and if she will make a statement. [166994]

**John Healey:** Eligibility for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) will be determined on the basis of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (IMD 2007), which is a robust measure of small area deprivation. Areas that will qualify for the WNF are those that have high concentrations deprivation.

We are currently assessing the likely impact of the new fund on eligible areas and will announce the list of authorities and their funding in December alongside the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement.

## Fire Services: Consultants

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost has been of all consultants' fees for the FiReControl Project to date, broken down by consultancy. [169489]

**Mr. Dhanda:** To date spend on consultants for the FiReControl project totals £26 million. Consultants provide a wide range of specialist services and skills to the project. They have provided project managers, lawyers, IT specialists, accountants, architects, building engineers, and experts in the property market and in security and resilience. The following table[1] gives total consultancy costs to date (30 October 2007) by company:

[1] The figures are stated net of reimbursements and exclude costs from within the public sector.

| *Company name* | *Total to date (£)* |
|---|---|
| Atkins Transport Planning | 922,875 |
| Cornwell Management Consultants | 838,694 |
| Denton Wilde Sapte | 2,004,364 |
| Donaldsons | 296,963 |
| ECA | 768,949 |
| Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd | 113,734 |
| Insight Management and Systems Consultants | 128,460 |
| PA Consulting Services Limited | 20,406,734 |
| PKF (UK LLP | 739,534 |
| Systeme Evolutif Ltd | 46,271 |
| Turner and Townsend LLP | 2,651,878 |
| Year end and other adjustment | 192,872 |
| Vat[1] | 500,799 |
| Other | 1,568,156 |
| Sub total | 30,987,411 |
| Receipts including recovery of costs from third parties | 5,033,122 |
| Total | 25,954,289 |

[1] At the end of 2005-06 the Department clarified its policy in relation to VAT and this resulted in a significant charge to expenditure of VAT that had previously been treated as recoverable.

## Litter: West Midlands

**Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to local authorities to take action against those caught *(a)* dropping litter and *(b)* fly-tipping; and how many (i) prosecutions were brought and (ii) penalty notices were issued under each power in each local authority area in the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [168902]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

Dropping litter is an offence under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, punishable by a fixed penalty fine, which can be set locally by a council within a range of £50 to £80, or prosecution (with a fine of up to £2,500 on conviction). Police community support officers, persons accredited under community accreditation schemes, parish councils and local authority authorised officers have enforcement powers, although responsibility rests primarily with the local authority.

Data on the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued and cases taken to court can be found on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk.

The deposit of waste without a licence, or fly-tipping, is an offence under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The offence carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, an unlimited fine, or both. Due to the serious nature of fly-tipping, there is no FPN available. Local authorities must prosecute offenders through the courts.

Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, was set up in 2004 and records the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities. The database also records enforcement actions taken, including prosecutions.

Data are available from April 2004 onwards and are as follows:

| | *Fly-tipping prosecutions taken* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Local authority* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| Birmingham City Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Borough of Telford and Wrekin | 27 | 0 | 4 |
| Bridgnorth District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bromsgrove District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cannock Chase District Council | 0 | [1]— | 0 |
| Coventry City Council | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| East Staffordshire Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Herefordshire Council | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Lichfield District Council | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Malvern Hills District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council | 0 | 0 | [1]— |
| North Shropshire District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Warwickshire Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Oswestry Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Redditch Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Rugby Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council | 0 | 4 | 13 |
| Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| South Shropshire District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Local authority | Fly-tipping prosecutions taken 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|
| South Staffordshire District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stafford Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Staffordshire Moorlands District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stoke-on-Trent City Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stratford-on-Avon District Council | [1]— | [1]— | 0 |
| Tamworth Borough Council | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Warwick District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wolverhampton City Council | 4 | 4 | 30 |
| Worcester City Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Wychavon District Council | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Wyre Forest District Council | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[1] No data.

### Members: Correspondence

**Sir Michael Spicer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Minister of State will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 30 October on home information packs. [170088]

**Yvette Cooper:** I have now replied to the hon. Member's correspondence.

### Migration Impacts Forum

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she next expects the Migration Impact Forum to report; and if she will make a statement. [168768]

**John Healey:** The next meeting of the Migration Impacts Forum (MIF) is on 16 January 2008.

A presentation on the impacts of migration on housing will be made in this meeting. All papers presented to the MIF are put onto the websites of Communities and Local Government and the Home Office after each meeting.

### Non-Domestic Rates: Telecommunications

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the implications for her policy on the rating of telephone networks of the establishment by Coventry city council of a fibre optic network upgrade; how many such fibre optic communications networks *(a)* owned and *(b)* controlled by (i) local authorities and (ii) other public sector organisations there are; how many of these have been assessed for business rates; and what factors are taken into account when assessing (A) public and (B) private sector networks for rates. [166905]

**John Healey:** There has been no change in the policy of rating telephone networks. Where fibre optic networks are known to the Valuation Office Agency they are assessed for rating. At present there are four fibre optic telecommunications networks in assessment that are known to be in the rateable occupation of local authorities and 18 fibre optic networks in assessment that are known to be in rateable occupation of other public sector organisations. All fibre optic networks, whether occupied by public or private sector ratepayers, are valued in the usual way on the basis of their annual rent if they were available to let on the open market at a fixed valuation date.

### Parish Councils: Harassment

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the incidence of harassment of town and parish council clerks by councillors. [166968]

**John Healey:** The Department has no monitoring role in relation to breaches of the code of conduct for local authority members, including cases of harassment of town and parish council clerks by councillors, and therefore has no information about the numbers of such cases.

### Planning: Renewable Energy

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the Chairman is of the Renewable Advisory Board's subgroup on microgeneration; who appointed him or her to the Renewable Advisory Board; on what date the Chair of the Renewable Advisory Board subgroup on microgeneration was invited to join the 2016 Task Force; on what date the membership of the 2016 Zero Carbon Task Force was first established; how many meetings of the 2016 Task Force *(a)* have been held since it was established and *(b)* were held prior to the appointment of the Chair of the Renewables Advisory Board subgroup on microgeneration; and which part of the renewables and microgeneration industry the Chair of the Renewables Advisory Board subgroup on microgeneration represents, as referred to in the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 674W, on planning: renewable energy. [167172]

**Yvette Cooper:** Matthew Spencer is the Chairman of the Renewable Advisory Board's subgroup on microgeneration and was appointed by the Energy Minister, following the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' regulated recruitment process in December 2005 for a three year term.

Matthew Spencer was invited to join the 2016 Taskforce on 26 October 2007 and the Taskforce itself was first established in January 2007.

The Taskforce has met five times since it was established and no Taskforce meetings have been held since the appointment of the Chair of the Renewables Advisory Board subgroup on microgeneration.

Matthew Spencer has been invited to join the 2016 Task Force in his capacity as Chair of the RAB Microgeneration sub-group which is made up of representatives from across the microrenewables sector.

**Transport: Finance**

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Transport and *(b)* Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding for transport infrastructure in Yorkshire and the Humber since her appointment; and if she will make a statement. [162754]

**Caroline Flint:** I have been asked to reply.

Although I have not held any formal meetings to date with the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding for transport infrastructure, I have engaged with key stakeholders in the region on a wide range of issues, including transport infrastructure.

**Unitary Councils: Applications**

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria applications for unitary status from district councils in England are required to meet. [168296]

**John Healey:** We have assessed all the unitary proposals received against the five criteria set out in our "Invitation to Councils", issued on 26 October 2006. On 25 July we announced that we were minded to implement those proposals which we judged as reasonably likely to achieve the outcomes specified by each of the five criteria.

We intend shortly, having regard to the five criteria, to take our final decisions under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 as to which unitary proposals are to be implemented.

**Urban Areas: Sustainable Development**

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the eco-towns initiative; and if she will make a statement. [166914]

**Yvette Cooper:** As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister told the House on 6 November we have received over 50 expressions of interest in respect of eco-towns. These have come from both local authorities and developers, and will be considered in a cross-Government strategic review. The intention is then to announce the selected schemes in February 2008.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for eco-towns she has received from *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* private developers. [166915]

**Yvette Cooper:** As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister told the House on 6 November we have received over 50 expressions of interest in respect of eco-towns. These have come from both local authorities and private developers and in some cases a public-private partnership. In a number of cases private developers are in ongoing discussion with local authorities about their involvement in proposals, so it is not possible to give a breakdown at this stage. The intention is to announce the selected schemes in February 2008.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether new dwellings approved as part of an eco-town development by her Department will contribute to performance against the house building requirements of the revised regional spatial strategies. [166917]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Housing Green Paper sets out that we expect eco-towns to help contribute to achieving the 240,000 national target. As set out in the Eco-Towns Prospectus we would expect new schemes to be additional to existing plans.

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodologies will be used to assess the carbon dioxide emissions of eco-towns, with particular reference to transport issues and the need for commuting to and from such towns. [166919]

**Yvette Cooper:** We will look to those making proposals for development of eco-towns to set out how they expect to achieve the Government's criteria for sustainability, including transport, as set out in the Eco-towns Prospectus, launched on 23 July 2007. Eco-towns should be planned in a way that supports low carbon living, and minimises carbon emissions from transport. One of the key issues for eco-towns is the 'consideration of the impact on roads and congestion when siting the eco-town, and the planning of infrastructure requirements'. We will want to see design that promotes sustainable transport usage and the reduction in car dependency.

We will produce an assessment methodology for those proposals that, following a strategic review across Government, are considered to have the potential to go forward as candidate eco-towns.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she plans to announce the chosen eco-town development sites; [169410]

(2) what bids have been made for eco-town developments. [169413]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 116W.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the criteria are for selection of eco-town sites. [169411]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The criteria and assessment approach for the selection of eco-town sites are set out in the Eco-towns Prospectus. This was published on 23 July 2007 as part of the Housing Green Paper and copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

### Young People: Public Participation

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to increase the involvement of young people in local government decisions since 1997. [167513]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* Under the provisions of the Children Act 2004, local authorities are required to consult children and young people as part of their strategic planning for children's services. More recently, empowering young people to shape their local services became a key theme in CLG's 'An Action Plan for Community Empowerment: Building on Success' (October 2007) and DCSF's 'Aiming High for Young People: a Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities' (July 2007). Examples of current initiatives include the Young Advisers scheme which trains young people aged 15 to 21 to act as consultants to ensure the views of young people are considered in local authority decisions affecting them and the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) and Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) where in 2006-07 over 8,000 teenagers participated in youth panels deciding on funding allocations for youth activities and facilities.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Bereavement Benefits: Forms

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to *(a)* increase the availability of and *(b)* improve the distribution of bereavement benefit claim forms; and if he will make a statement. [169291]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** We are not aware of any problems with the availability and distribution of bereavement benefit claim forms.

### Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what average time was taken for Jobcentre Plus to process crisis loans in each year since 2002; [163500]

(2) what average time was taken for Jobcentre Plus to process community care grants in each year since 2002. [163501]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 3 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what was the average time taken for Jobcentre Plus to process Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants in each year since 2002. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information requested is in the table.

*Average actual clearance time—Great Britain*

*Days*

| | *Social fund crisis loans clearance times* | *Social fund community care grants clearance times* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1.2 | 7.5 |
| 2003-04 | 1.3 | 8.4 |
| 2004-05 | 1.3 | 8.0 |
| 2005-06 | 1.4 | 7.8 |
| 2006-07 | 1.5 | 9.2 |

*Note:*
1. Numbers are based on applications cleared in each financial year, not on applications received during that year.
2. Numbers have been rounded to one decimal place.

*Source:*
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

The clearance time for an individual application is measured in whole working days from the date of receipt of the application until the date of decision, plus if a loan offer is made, the number of whole working days between receiving the applicant's reply to the offer and the recording of that reply. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual application is one working day, even if the application is cleared immediately.

Our standard for the average actual clearance time for Crisis Loans is 2 working days and for Community Care Grants it is 9 working days. We have kept within the standard average actual clearance time for Crisis Loans in every year from 2002-03 and for Community Care Grants in every year except 2006-07.

As we have modernised Crisis Loan delivery by making our service more accessible to our customers, the number of Crisis Loan applications has risen to an unprecedented level. Jobcentre Plus received 202,000 applications in October this year compared to 132,000 in October 2006.

In order to deal with this rise and continue to keep within our 2 day standard for Crisis Loans we have temporarily diverted resources from Community Care Grants, and have been putting in extra resources. By taking this action we have kept within our 2 day standard for Crisis Loans, this has resulted in a knock on effect on time taken to clear applications for Community Care Grants. As the extra resources come on stream we expect to see improvements and move back to our usual standards.

### Departmental Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167922]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Private health insurance is not part of the normal employment package provided by the Department for Work and Pensions or its agencies. However four employees who transferred to the employment of DWP under the Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment Regulations (TUPE) elected to retain the term of their previous employment that provided them with private health insurance.

### Departmental Land

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what land surplus to his Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168850]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not own any land as DWP has outsourced estate via a private finance initiative (PFI) contract known as Prime whereby the entire DWP estate was sold (freehold, feuhold and long lease interests) or transferred (short leasehold interests) to Land Securities Trillium. The proceeds were released to HM Treasury in April 1998 (for the original DSS estate) and further in December 2003 when Prime was expanded to include the former Employment Service estate.

### Departmental Manpower

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006. [162462]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 596-97W.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006. [162463]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 596-97W.

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Departments whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162464]

**Mrs. McGuire:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 596-97W.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164921]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Code of Conduct for Special Advisers states that

"In order to enable special advisers to work effectively, Departments may allocate permanent civil servants to provide support of a non-political nature".

Two civil servants support the Department's special advisors. Both provide administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

### Departmental Standards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164867]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions has not yet set a date for publication of its autumn performance report for 2007, however it is our intention to publish this before the House rises for the Christmas recess.

### Disability Aids: Communication

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people who require alternative and augmentative communication equipment; and if he will make a statement; [168776]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the provision of alternative and augmentative communication equipment for disabled people; [168777]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential demand for alternative and augmentative communication aids among people aged *(a)* under 24, *(b)* between 24 and 65 and *(c)* over 65 years old; and if he will make a statement. [168779]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** I have been asked to reply.

The Department has not made any such estimates or assessments and has not issued guidance.

It is the responsibility of local health and social care organisations to prioritise and allocate funding for communication aids based on their assessment of the needs of their local populations. To support this process the Government recently announced, through the Comprehensive Spending Review that local authority funding will increase by £2.6 billion by 2010-11.

Recommendation 5.6 of the Prime Ministers' Strategy Unit report "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled people", focuses on the provision of community equipment, communication aids and wheelchairs for children. As part of the process of addressing this recommendation the Department launched the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services programme in June 2006.

In addition, the department, is working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to support the Bercow Review. The Bercow Review is currently reviewing services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs with the aim of producing a report in the summer of 2008.

### Disability Living Allowance: Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what checks are made on the immigration status of applicants for disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [168343]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mrs Vivien Hopkins. She will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Vivien Hopkins, dated 3 December 2007:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what checks are made on the immigration status of applicants for disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Acting Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

I can confirm that a customer applying for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is asked to provide their Nationality on the claim form.

If the customer does not answer this question or their answer indicates that they may be subject to Immigration control then further enquiries are made. These enquiries may include a request for sight of the passport, travel documents and any letters from the Home Office.

If the customer fails to respond to a request for evidence of this type, or if the decision maker is unable to confirm the immigration status of the customer from the available evidence, then enquiries may be made direct to the Home Office.

These issues need to be resolved before any award of DLA can be made.

I hope this reply is helpful.

## Disability Living Allowance: Marfan Syndrome

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provisions are in place for people with Marfan syndrome to access disability living allowance. [169343]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Entitlement to disability living allowance is not linked to particular disabling conditions, but on the extent to which a severely disabled person has personal care needs and/or walking difficulties as a result of their disability. People with Marfan syndrome can claim disability living allowance in the same way as anyone else.

There is a range of help available to customers who may experience difficulty in completing the claim form. People can call the freephone Benefit Enquiry Line, where an operator will offer advice and answer individual questions as well as arranging for someone to call back to complete a copy of the claim form over the phone. The completed form will then be sent to the customer for checking, signing and return.

In cases where the customer does not want to fill in the self-reporting form, or cannot make use of the other help available, the Disability and Carers Service may be able to send out a visiting officer to help with the form. Customers can also go to their local Jobcentre Plus office or Citizens Advice Bureau for advice.

## Disabled

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many companies have been awarded the two ticks symbol in recognition of action taken to meet commitments in relation to people with disabilities; and how many were withdrawn in each of the last five years. [168781]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The available information is in the following table.

*Disability symbol: Agreements awarded and withdrawn each calendar year*

| | *New company agreements awarded* | *Companies withdrawn*[1] |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 328 | 17 |
| 2004 | 340 | 11 |
| 2005 | 269 | 15 |
| 2006 | 245 | 12 |
| 2007[2] | 220 | 24 |

[1] This figure denotes the companies that have either chosen to terminate the agreement themselves or who have had their agreement terminated by Jobcentre Plus for non-compliance.
[2] To date.
*Source:*
The Disability Symbol employer database for England, Wales and Scotland.

## Incapacity Benefit: Overseas Residence

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit recipients live outside the UK in a country where they can receive *(a)* index-linked benefit entitlement and *(b)* non-index-linked benefit entitlement. [163426]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Incapacity benefit is a contribution-based benefit. It is only payable to people who have paid sufficient relevant UK national insurance contributions.

At 31 October 2007, the number of incapacity benefit recipients living outside the UK and in receipt of an index-linked benefit entitlement was 10,992.

There are no incapacity benefit recipients living outside the UK receiving a non-index linked benefit.

## Income Support

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people there are on income support benefit who are working *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time. [168772]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Income support is not payable to people who work full-time.

The number of people in receipt of income support who declare part-time earnings is 49,300, as at quarter ending May 2007.

*Note:* Figures are uprated to Work and Pension Longitudinal Study totals, rounded to the nearest 100.

*Source:* DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent sample.

## Jobcentre Plus

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps are being taken to ensure that contact between people with mental health and learning difficulties and Jobcentre Plus is appropriately managed; [163584]

(2) what steps he is taking to make Jobcentre Plus more accessible to people who do not speak English as a first language; [163585]

(3) what progress has been made in improving the accessibility of Jobcentre Plus to elderly people; and if he will make a statement. [163586]

**Caroline Flint:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 3 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about improving access to Jobcentre Plus services for people who are elderly or for whom English is not a first language and managing appropriately contact with people who have mental health or learning difficulties. These are things that fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our services are delivered over the telephone, face to face, in writing and through the internet. We recognise that some people have particular needs linked to age, disability and language and strive to meet these in the delivery of our services.

The steps we take are tailored to meet individual circumstances and include:

working with customer advocates and intermediary organisations such as Citizens Advice;

providing interpreter services to support interviews and telephone calls;

using alternative interview venues; and

producing a range of materials in other languages and alternative formats.

Additionally, we provide targeted help for customers with particular needs. For example, our Disability Employment Advisers are experts at helping people with health conditions and disabilities into work, including people with mental health conditions or learning disabilities.

Whilst some benefits end at State Pension Age, many of the services available through Jobcentre Plus to help people return to work have no upper age limit. This includes the use of Jobpoints to search for job and learning opportunities. Programmes like New Deal 50 plus, and Work Trials are among those available on a voluntary basis to people who have been in receipt of certain benefits for six months or more, including the Pension Credit which is a qualifying benefit for all currently available back to work programmes and services.

Our staff receive training to ensure they understand equality legislation. We also work closely with the voluntary sector, including organisations that represent customer interests. This helps us to understand better our customers' needs and to make appropriate referrals to external support in local communities.

I hope this is helpful.

## New Deal for Disabled People

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people registered for new deal for disabled people in each month since the programme began for the *(a)* second and *(b)* third time; [162623]

(2) how many people have registered for new deal for disabled people in each month since the programme began. [162624]

**Caroline Flint:** The requested information is in the following table:

*New deal for disabled people*

| *Month of registration with new deal for disabled people* | *Total number of registrations* | *Number registering for the second time* | *Number registering for the third time* |
|---|---|---|---|
| July 2001 | 1,090 | 20 | 0 |
| August 2001 | 1,370 | 20 | 0 |
| September 2001 | 960 | 30 | 0 |
| October 2001 | 1,080 | 40 | 10 |
| November 2001 | 1,830 | 50 | 10 |
| December 2001 | 900 | 20 | 0 |
| January 2002 | 1,450 | 30 | 0 |
| February 2002 | 2,040 | 70 | 0 |
| March 2002 | 2,640 | 80 | 10 |
| April 2002 | 2,550 | 80 | 0 |
| May 2002 | 3,250 | 130 | 10 |
| June 2002 | 2,170 | 100 | 10 |
| July 2002 | 2,580 | 90 | 10 |
| August 2002 | 3,010 | 150 | 20 |
| September 2002 | 2,860 | 150 | 10 |
| October 2002 | 2,990 | 140 | 10 |
| November 2002 | 3,400 | 220 | 20 |
| December 2002 | 1,480 | 120 | 10 |
| January 2003 | 3,300 | 210 | 20 |
| February 2003 | 3,220 | 180 | 20 |
| March 2003 | 3,190 | 200 | 10 |
| April 2003 | 2,590 | 200 | 20 |
| May 2003 | 3,140 | 240 | 30 |
| June 2003 | 3,120 | 240 | 20 |
| July 2003 | 3,040 | 220 | 20 |
| August 2003 | 3,190 | 210 | 20 |
| September 2003 | 3,420 | 230 | 30 |
| October 2003 | 4,130 | 290 | 30 |
| November 2003 | 2,830 | 230 | 20 |
| December 2003 | 1,740 | 140 | 20 |
| January 2004 | 3,390 | 260 | 40 |
| February 2004 | 3,700 | 270 | 30 |
| March 2004 | 3,980 | 340 | 40 |
| April 2004 | 4,670 | 440 | 60 |
| May 2004 | 4,670 | 440 | 50 |
| June 2004 | 4,640 | 460 | 70 |
| July 2004 | 6,570 | 640 | 100 |
| August 2004 | 4,900 | 410 | 60 |
| September 2004 | 5,280 | 470 | 70 |
| October 2004 | 6,650 | 660 | 100 |
| November 2004 | 5,000 | 550 | 80 |
| December 2004 | 3,630 | 410 | 70 |
| January 2005 | 5,240 | 530 | 80 |
| February 2005 | 5,840 | 590 | 70 |
| March 2005 | 5,270 | 640 | 90 |
| April 2005 | 6,040 | 630 | 110 |
| May 2005 | 4,760 | 510 | 100 |
| June 2005 | 4,830 | 550 | 100 |
| July 2005 | 6,300 | 680 | 100 |
| August 2005 | 5,330 | 560 | 100 |
| September 2005 | 7,020 | 790 | 130 |
| October 2005 | 5,800 | 640 | 100 |
| November 2005 | 5,600 | 630 | 100 |
| December 2005 | 3,870 | 440 | 100 |
| January 2006 | 6,140 | 800 | 130 |
| February 2006 | 7,060 | 840 | 160 |
| March 2006 | 7,810 | 980 | 180 |
| April 2006 | 4,880 | 640 | 140 |

*New deal for disabled people*

| *Month of registration with new deal for disabled people* | *Total number of registrations* | *Number registering for the second time* | *Number registering for the third time* |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2006 | 4,950 | 710 | 120 |
| June 2006 | 6,210 | 840 | 130 |
| July 2006 | 4,830 | 610 | 100 |
| August 2006 | 5,070 | 600 | 100 |
| September 2006 | 6,310 | 770 | 140 |
| October 2006 | 4,970 | 570 | 120 |
| November 2006 | 4,760 | 590 | 110 |
| December 2006 | 3,550 | 440 | 80 |
| January 2007 | 5,240 | 610 | 120 |
| February 2007 | 5,560 | 650 | 150 |
| March 2007 | 6,900 | 840 | 140 |
| April 2007 | 4,760 | 620 | 110 |
| May 2007 | 4,940 | 600 | 140 |
| June 2007 | 6,230 | 780 | 150 |
| July 2007 | 5,010 | 630 | 120 |
| August 2007 | 4,950 | 490 | 100 |

*Notes:*
1. The New Deal for Disabled People programme was introduced in July 2001.
2. Latest data are to August 2007.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

## New Deal for Disabled People: Employment

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people registered for New Deal for Disabled People found employment lasting *(a)* less than 13 weeks, *(b)* at least 13 weeks, *(c)* at least 26 weeks and *(d)* at least 52 weeks in each year since the programme began. [162578]

**Caroline Flint:** Up to the end of May 2007, New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) had helped 151,970 people into work.

Information on job sustainability through NDDP is only available up to March 2006, and only available for jobs gained through an NDDP Job Broker.

Of the 77,820 people who gained a job through an NDDP Job Broker to March 2006, 56,510 (73 per cent.) gained a sustained job. Information on the definition of a sustained job through NDDP is provided in the notes to the following table.

Information is not available for jobs gained through NDDP lasting at least 52 weeks. The available information on the number of people finding employment through NDDP lasting less than 13 weeks, at least 13 weeks, and at least 26 weeks in each year since the programme began, is in the following table.

| *Period* | *Less than 13 weeks* | *At least 13 weeks* | *Less than 26 weeks* | *At least 26 weeks* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *July to December 2001* | — | — | *180* | *720* |
| January to December 2002 | — | — | 1,630 | 5,110 |
| January to September 2003 | — | — | 2,020 | 6,710 |
| October to December 2003 | 860 | 3,020 | — | — |
| January-December 2004 | 4,850 | 17,780 | — | — |
| January-December 2005 | 7,720 | 20,170 | — | — |

*Notes:*
1. Since October 2003, a job has been regarded as sustained through New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) when a person, placed into work through an NDDP Job Broker, remains in work for 13 out of 39 weeks.
2. Prior to October 2003, an NDDP job was regarded as sustained when a person, placed into work through an NDDP Job Broker, remained in work for 26 out of 39 weeks.
3. Up to September 2003, information is available on whether a job lasted at least 26 weeks, or less than 26 weeks, but no differentiation is available on whether it lasted less than or more than 13 weeks.
4. From October 2003, information is available on whether a job lasted at least 13 weeks, or less than 13 weeks, but not on whether it lasted at least 26 weeks.
5. Separate data on job sustainability through NDDP has not been collected centrally since April 2006. As information is requested for each year, complete year data is provided to December 2005.
6. New Deal for Disabled People started in July 2001.
7. Data is rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

## New Deal For Young People: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of participants in the new deal for young people in the Peterborough city council unitary authority area were repeat participants in the last year for which figures are available. [163176]

**Caroline Flint:** New deal for young people (NDYP) has helped 2,230 people in the Peterborough city council local authority area into work since it started in January 1998. Between June 2006 and May 2007, there were 960 participants on NDYP in the Peterborough city council local authority area, of which 290 (30 per cent.) were repeat participants.

*Notes:*
1. Latest available data are to May 2007.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Percentages are rounded to the nearest number.

## New Deal for Young People: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of participants in the New Deal for Young People in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk returned to receive jobseeker's allowance (i) immediately and (ii) within one year of leaving the New Deal in the last year for which figures are available. [162594]

**Caroline Flint:** The available information is in the following table.

*Percentage of new deal for young people (NDYP) participants returning to receive jobseeker's allowance (JSA) after leaving new deal*

| | East of England | Suffolk |
|---|---|---|
| Immediately | 17 | 25 |
| Within one year | 36 | 41 |

*Notes:*
1. Latest available data are to the end of May 2007, but to enable data to be provided for those leaving NDYP and returning to JSA within one year of leaving the programme, information is from June 2005-May 2006.
2. To provide comparative data, information for those returning to JSA immediately after leaving NDYP is also calculated from data between June 2005-May 2006.
3. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.
*Source:*
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

### Occupational Pensions

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on occupational pension funds of the increase in longevity assumptions by the Pension Protection Fund. [165825]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** It is not the PPF's role to set a standard for other pension schemes. The PPF has recently announced its intention to maintain a stable levy estimate (allowing for indexation) for the next three years, subject to there being no significant change in long-term risk exposure.

### Transformation of the Personal Capability Assessment Report

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at what time on 19 November 2007 he placed the Transformation of the Personal Capability Assessment report in the Library. [168356]

**Mr. Hain** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* It was my understanding at the time I made the statement that the report had been placed in the Library. In fact two copies of the report were delivered to the Statistical Resource Unit in the House of Commons Library at approximately 11 am and 50 copies were available to hon. Members from the Vote Office at the same time. However copies of the report were not available to hon. Members from the Libraries until later in the afternoon. I apologise to the hon. Member if I inadvertently caused any confusion.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what timetable the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has set for the disposal of the nuclear laboratory site at Berkeley. [168175]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today to his question 167885.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority plans to dispose of the Berkeley Nuclear Laboratory site. [167885]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The NDA is preparing an overarching property asset strategy for its estate. As part of the consultation process, the Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group was informed in October that there were no current plans to sell the freehold of the Berkeley Centre. During 2008-09 the NDA will seek the Berkeley Site Stakeholder Group's views on the scope for working in partnership with local development agencies and the private sector to develop the site.

### Business: Renewable Energy

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to provide incentives for the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises in the field of renewable energy technology manufacture in the UK. [164041]

**Malcolm Wicks** *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The Renewables Obligation (RO) is the Government's main support mechanism for the expansion of renewable electricity in the UK. The RO has driven forward a dramatic growth in the deployment of renewables in the UK. As a result many companies both large and small have taken advantage of the economic benefit and new employment that has resulted.

More than £500 million is being spent between 2002-08 supporting R and D on emerging technologies. Many of the companies supported have been SMEs.

### Claimants Pilot: South Yorkshire

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the claimants pilot in Rother Valley; and what criteria he used to make that assessment. [169174]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department received a copy of the report on the Rother Valley pilot project from the Legal Complaints Service on 19 November 2007. We are now considering the outcomes and plan to discuss these further with the Legal Complaints Service and others to agree the best way of taking this work forward in the light of the pilot and other relevant initiatives.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individuals responded to the claimants pilot in Rother Valley. [R] [169175]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Based on information provided by the Legal Complaints Service (LCS) I understand there were 364 individual responses who accepted an invitation to attend an Information Session facilitated by them. Of these, 327 people actually attended the Information Sessions, generating 261 complaints. A further 69 claimants who were unable to attend a Session either rang or wrote to the LCS to make a

complaint. Taken overall the pilot has generated 330 complaints to be followed up for further investigation by the LCS.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the reasons are for the time taken to give names of claimants to the Legal Complaints Service to advise on solicitors' charges following the Rother Valley pilot. [169191]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In reaching agreement to take forward the Rother Valley pilot project with the Legal Complaints Service the Department was concerned to make sure our obligations under the Data Protection Act and other considerations in using claimant data were taken fully into account. We are now considering the outcomes from the pilot and discussing with the Legal Complaints Services and others the best way of taking this work forward in the light of the practical experience and other relevant initiatives.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date he is expecting to give names of claimants to the Legal Complaints Service to advise on solicitors' charges following the Rother Valley pilot. [169192]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Legal Complaints Service was given some claimant data for the Rother Valley pilot project. We are now considering the outcomes from the Rother Valley pilot project and discussing with the Legal Complaints Services and others the best way of taking this work forward in the light of the experience gained from the project and other relevant initiatives.

### Companies House: ICT

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has any plans to review the IT systems of Companies House. [166698]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* No.

### Departmental Carbon Emissions

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's carbon management programme. [165935]

**Malcolm Wicks:** BERR are not currently working with the Carbon Trust, however the Department for Trade and Industry engaged with the Carbon Trust from 2003-04 to 2006-07 through its carbon management (energy efficiency) programme, which delivers technical assessment and energy efficiency advice, detailed in a customer specific action plan.

### Energy

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much electricity was generated in the UK from *(a)* coal, *(b)* gas, *(c)* nuclear, *(d)* renewable and *(e)* other sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [170643]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Electricity generated in the UK in 2006 (the last year for which data are available) is summarised as follows:

| *Source* | *Electricity generated (GWh)* |
|---|---|
| Coal | 150,283 |
| Gas | 141,342 |
| Nuclear | 75,451 |
| Renewables | 18,784 |
| Other[1] | 12,466 |
| Total | 398,327 |

[1] Other sources include oil, hydro pumped storage, coke oven gas, blast furnace gas and waste products from chemical processes.

*Source:*
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2007

### Energy: Fees and Charges

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to ensure that all customers of an energy supplier have access to the cheapest tariff provided by that supplier. [169419]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In respect of gas and electricity, each supplier has a range of tariffs which are generally related to payment method. While these will be available to all customers, there will be circumstances where a customer cannot access a particular tariff, for instance, an internet-based tariff or, where a customer is repaying debt through a prepayment meter. Most suppliers now offer social tariffs to their fuel poor customers, while others offer a range of measures designed to assist these customers. Among other things, these activities help low-income households reduce their energy costs. I am in continued discussion with suppliers to encourage them to maintain and build on these activities.

Ofgem and Energywatch have undertaken activities to inform consumers about the range of tariffs available and the benefits of switching. A number of intermediaries now also exist to inform customers about different tariffs and provide an easy means of switching. In respect of the cheaper tariffs that are available through direct debit, the key is access to a bank account. The Government are tackling this through their work on financial inclusion and specifically work with the banking sector to improve access to bank accounts.

### Energy: Ministers

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will list the Ministers in his Department, and its predecessor, who have had held the post of Energy Minister since 1 May 1997, giving the start and end date of their tenure in each case. [169887]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I am the current Minister for Energy, having been appointed on 29 June 2007. I was also Minister for Energy between 12 May 2005 and 9 November 2006.

Other Ministers for Energy, since May 1997, were:

John Battle: 6 May 1997 to 28th July 1999

Helen Liddell: 29 July 1999 to 10 January 2001

Brian Wilson: 11 January 2001 to 14 May 2001 and 13 June 2001 to 13 June 2003

Stephen Timms: 14 June 2003 to 8 September 2004

Mike O'Brien: 9 September 2004 to 11 April 2005

Lord Truscott: 10 November 2006 to 28 June 2007

## Energy: Wastes

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much electricity was generated from municipal waste in the UK as a percentage of total electricity produced in the latest period for which figures are available; what plans he has to increase this amount; and if he will make a statement. [170603]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In 2006 (the last year for which data are available) 0.3 per cent. of electricity in the UK was generated from municipal solid waste (biodegradable part only) combustion (source: Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2007).

Government plans on energy from waste are set out in the "Waste Strategy for England 2007" and the Government's energy policy was set out in the "Energy White Paper", both of which are available from the House of Commons Library.

## Fuel Poverty

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many households in *(a)* St. Albans constituency, *(b)* each borough in Hertfordshire and *(c)* England (i) are classified as living in fuel poverty and (ii) have been classified as living in fuel poverty in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [168001]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Constituency level estimates of fuel poverty are available only for 2003 from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset (available online at http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/). This estimates that there were approximately 2,700 households in fuel poverty in St. Albans. The following table shows fuel poverty levels also taken from the fuel poverty indicator website for all the local authorities in Hertfordshire;

| *Local authority name* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Broxbourne | 1,800 |
| Dacorum | 3,000 |
| East Hertfordshire | 2,800 |
| Hertsmere | 1,900 |
| North Hertfordshire | 2,700 |
| St. Albans | 2,700 |
| Stevenage | 1,900 |
| Three Rivers | 1,700 |
| Watford | 1,600 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 2,100 |

The most up-to-date national fuel poverty rates were published in "The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 4th Annual Progress Report 2006" (available online at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file29688.pdf) holds the following table on page 8:

*Number of households in fuel poverty in England, 1996—2004*

| | *Total fuel poor* | *million Vulnerable* |
|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 5.1 | 4.0 |
| 1998 | 3.4 | 2.8 |
| 2001 | 1.7 | 1.4 |
| 2002 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| 2003 | 1.2 | 1.0 |
| 2004 | 1.25 | 0.95 |

## Fuel Poverty: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* people and *(b)* households in each London borough (i) are classified as living in fuel poverty and (ii) were classified as living in fuel poverty in each year since 1997. [169245]

**Malcolm Wicks:** London borough level estimates of fuel poverty are available only for 2003. The following table shows fuel poverty levels taken from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset (available online at http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/) for all the London boroughs.

| *London borough* | *Estimate of number of fuel poor households* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,900 |
| Barnet | 6,700 |
| Bexley | 5,000 |
| Brent | 5,300 |
| Bromley | 6,700 |
| Camden | 4,800 |
| City of London | 200 |
| Croydon | 7,700 |
| Ealing | 6,100 |
| Enfield | 6,000 |
| Greenwich | 5,300 |
| Hackney | 4,600 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3,800 |
| Haringey | 5,200 |
| Harrow | 4,000 |
| Havering | 5,000 |
| Hillingdon | 4,800 |
| Hounslow | 4,300 |
| Islington | 4,200 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 4,100 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 3,200 |
| Lambeth | 6,100 |
| Lewisham | 5,900 |
| Merton | 4,200 |
| Newham | 5,800 |
| Redbridge | 5,200 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 4,100 |
| Southwark | 5,400 |
| Sutton | 3,900 |
| Tower Hamlets | 3,800 |

| London borough | Estimate of number of fuel poor households |
|---|---|
| Waltham Forest | 5,300 |
| Wandsworth | 5,900 |
| Westminster | 5,600 |
| Grand Total | 162,200 |

### Heating: Carbon Emissions

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had on reducing carbon dioxide emissions; and what consideration he has made of the potential effect of electric heating on carbon dioxide emissions. [168058]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department plays a key role in delivering the Government's public sector agreement of leading the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change, particularly in relation to promoting carbon trading, encouraging the adoption of renewable and low carbon technologies, and addressing the removal of barriers to behavioural change in order to improve energy efficiency. As such, Ministers and officials have regular discussions both in and outside Government on these issues. For example, I took part in the zero carbon homes taskforce meeting on 26 October which is looking at addressing the barriers to implementation of the 2016 zero carbon homes target. Officials have been in discussion with industry on the competition for a commercial-scale carbon capture and storage demonstration project launched on 19 November. Ministers and officials have been discussing with a number of stakeholders ways of encouraging more renewable electricity generation. As announced in the Energy White Paper we are also considering a number of policy options to reduce the carbon impact of heat, including low-carbon electric heating in order to determine a strategy for heat.

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will have discussions with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government on the potential environmental effects of use of electric heating. [168128]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I have held regular discussions with the Department of Communities and Local Government on a range of strategic energy issues and I am also a member of the 2016 zero carbon taskforce, established to identify the barriers to implementation of the 2016 zero carbon target and put in place measures to address these. I took part in the meeting of the taskforce on 26 October alongside the Minister for Housing.

The Government are committed to addressing both the causes and consequences of climate change. As announced in the Energy White Paper we are considering a number of policy options to reduce the carbon impact of heat in order to determine a strategy for heat.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* Department and *(b)* Minister has lead responsibility for reducing heat emissions. [169847]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Tackling climate change is a matter for Ministers in all Departments. Responsibility for action to reduce heat emissions involves the work of many Departments and Ministers including Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport.

### Heating: Conservation

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to develop a strategy on heat as indicated in the Energy White Paper; and what the timetable is for its production. [169729]

**Malcolm Wicks:** As announced by the Prime Minister on 19 November, a call for evidence on heat will be published in January 2008. Following this, Ministers will look at options and a timetable for developing a heat strategy.

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will publish in full the Office of Climate Change report on sustainable heat. [169943]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Office of Climate Change heat project has been running since January 2007 looking at how $CO_2$ emissions from heat could be reduced. As announced by the Prime Minister on 19 November, a call for evidence on heat will be published in January 2008.

### Industrial Diseases: Compensation

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the reasons were for the decision to delay giving names of claimants to the Legal Complaints Services to advise on solicitors' charges following the Rother Valley pilot; and which Ministers took that decision. [170557]

**Malcolm Wicks:** In reaching agreement to take forward the Rother Valley pilot project with the Legal Complaints Service the Department was concerned to make sure our obligations under the Data Protection Act and other considerations in using claimant data were taken fully into account. My officials are now considering the outcomes from the pilot and discussing with the Legal Complaints Services and others the best way of taking this work forward in the light of the practical experience and other relevant initiatives. I will be meeting the Legal Complaints Service and key stakeholders in the new year to determine next steps.

### Mining: Coal

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings with ex-coalminers his Ministers have had in coalfield communities in each of the last two years. [169193]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I met former miners and their representatives in Cardiff in March 2007. I also meet the NUM and representatives of coalfield communities

through the Coal Health Ministerial Monitoring Group. My officials also meet with representatives of the coalfield communities at the English, Scottish and Welsh Monitoring Committees.

### Mining: Death

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the likely number of deaths of miners pursuing compensation claims in the next 12 months. [170556]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department is unable to make such a prediction with any certainty. However, from the information provided by the claimants' legal representatives we are aware of 135 claimants with a life expectancy of less than two years.

Since 1 January 2007, 528 claimants passed away before their claims were settled.

### Nuclear Power Stations

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department has allocated to the Environment Agency to carry out the process of pre-authorisation for new nuclear power stations. [167720]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department has not allocated any funding to the Environment Agency to carry out generic design assessments.

The regulators, including the Environment Agency, have developed resource plans to allow them to implement generic design assessments.

Industry will meet the costs of generic design assessment, as they currently meet the costs of licensing any nuclear plant. This will allow the regulators to resource the process.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what date he expects the first pre-authorisation consent for new nuclear power stations to be granted by the Environment Agency. [167722]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Following a request from the Government, the regulators published their guidance on the Generic Design Assessment process in January 2007.

The regulators, including the Environment Agency, estimate that performing generic design assessments for a competitive number of reactor designs could take around three and a half years. Greater clarity on the time needed for the generic design assessment process should become available as the process unfolds. The time needed will also depend on the number of designs that are assessed concurrently.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Design

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what budget his Department has allocated to the *(a)* Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to carry out the process of generic design assessment for new nuclear power stations. [167721]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Department has not allocated any funding to the Health and Safety Executive or the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to carry out generic design assessments.

The regulators, including the Health and Safety Executive and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, have developed resource plans to allow them to implement generic design assessments.

Industry will meet the costs of generic design assessment, as they currently meet the costs of licensing any nuclear plant. This will allow the regulators to resource the process.

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what date he expects the first design consent to be granted following the process of generic design assessment for new nuclear power stations. [167823]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Following a request from the Government, the regulators (the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency) developed a process for generic design assessment of new nuclear reactor designs, which they are carrying out on a contingent basis pending the outcome of the consultation on the future of nuclear power. The regulators published their guidance on the Generic Design Assessment process in January 2007.

The regulators estimate that performing generic design assessments for a competitive number of reactor designs could take around three and a half years, running until around 2010-11. Greater clarity on the time needed for the generic design assessment process should become available as the process unfolds. The time needed will also depend on the number of designs that are assessed concurrently.

### Nuclear Power Stations: Uranium

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform from where the uranium for the UK's nuclear power stations is sourced; and what percentage came from each country in the latest period for which figures are available. [169225]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Uranium imports come from a diverse range of countries—uranium is currently mined in 19 different countries and resources of economic interest have been identified in at least 25 other countries.

Our Nuclear Consultation document shows the latest percentage figures of countries supplying the most uranium to EU15 utilities in 2005 as follows:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Canada | 28 |
| Australia | 17 |
| Niger | 14 |
| Russia | 10 |

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects global supplies of uranium to be exhausted; and if he will make a statement. [169226]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that world uranium resources are more than adequate to supply the expected global expansion of nuclear power.

The IEA's 2006 World Energy Outlook concluded that identified conventional uranium resources are sufficient for several decades of operation at current usage rates. All demand to 2030 can be met from reasonably assured resources at a production cost below $80/kg. Beyond 2030 the additional demand can still be met on the basis of current estimates of total reasonably assured, inferred and undiscovered uranium resources.

### Phoenix Venture Holdings

**Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to receive the report of the inspectors appointed by Ministers under section 432 of the Companies Act 1985 to investigate and report on the affairs of Phoenix Venture Holdings Ltd, MG Rover Limited and related companies; what progress has been made with the inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [169519]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The investigation is ongoing. The inspectors, who are independent of BERR, are seeking to complete the report as quickly as possible, with due regard for the fairness of the process and the thoroughness of the task. It would not otherwise be appropriate to comment on the details of a current investigation or to speculate on when it might be completed.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many responses have been received to the six-week consultation over proposed post office closures in the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Area Plan. [169476]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL), to reply direct to the hon. Member.

### Post Offices: Standards

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many anonymous visits have been made to post offices to monitor the delivery of network change programme checks of key messages to customers. [164911]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

### Postal Services: Standards

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Government's policy is on requiring postmen to maintain a pace of four miles per hour across their route as determined by the Pegasus 2 programme; and if he will make a statement. [169332]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

### Productivity

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what productivity per worker is in the UK; what information his Department holds on equivalent figures for *(a)* the USA, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* France, *(d)* China and *(e)* India; and if he will make a statement. [163875]

**Mr. Timms:** The Government have a long running PSA objective to raise productivity growth over the cycle and in comparison to our main international competitors (the US, France and Germany).

Latest international comparisons of productivity per worker produced by the ONS for 2006 show the gap with France currently stands at around 9 per cent. down from 23 per cent. in 1995. The data also show that productivity in the UK is 4 per cent. higher than in Germany from being 10 per cent. lower in 1995. The gap with the US stands at around 23 per cent. down from 29 per cent. in 1995.

ONS does not produce data on the productivity performance of India and China. However, GDP per capita data suggest that productivity performance is significantly below that in the UK.

### Radioactive Materials: Transport

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who is responsible for the security of trains carrying nuclear waste through London; and if he will make a statement. [169389]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The transportation of spent nuclear fuel is carried out in accordance with stringent security regulations—the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (NISR 03). These regulations are administered and enforced by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS), part of the Health and Safety Executive, who regulate the security of such movements.

A key requirement of the NISR 03 is that all carriers of civil nuclear material submit a Transport Security Statement (TSS), which is legally binding, detailing the security policies and procedures implemented in order to prevent the theft or sabotage of civil nuclear material in transit. Before a carrier can commence the transport of civil nuclear material, the TSS has to be approved by OCNS who must be assured that the standards detailed are sufficiently robust.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to *(a)* review and *(b)* improve the security arrangements for (i) nuclear facilities and (ii) the transportation of nuclear materials including (A) MOX plutonium and (B) nuclear waste; and if he will make a statement. [169399]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Security measures for the transportation of nuclear material and of licensed nuclear sites are kept under continuing review in light of the prevailing threat and we are satisfied that existing procedures are robust and effective.

The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS), part of the Health and Safety Executive, is the Government's regulator for security in the civil nuclear industry and is responsible for ensuring, inter alia, that the industry complies with the requirements of the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (NISR 03).

The NISR 03 makes provision for the protection of nuclear material, both on sites and in transit, against the risks of theft and sabotage, and for the protection of sensitive nuclear information, such as site security arrangements.

### Regional Development Agency: Finance

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria were used to allocate funding referred to in the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 195W, on regional development agency: finance, to each regional development agency. [165500]

**Mr. Timms:** The regional development agencies' budgets for 2007-08 were allocated to the RDAs following spending review 2004. Grant in aid was divided between the RDAs using a funding formula which takes into account the needs of the region (including skills, worklessness and productivity).

Once the RDAs' overall budgets were set, each of the RDAs produced corporate plans in which they set out their requirements for pay and non-pay administration costs. Those plans were approved by Ministers.

### Renewable Energy

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proposals he has to improve the development and uptake of renewable and low carbon energy technologies through targeted sectoral deployment support measures. [167913]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The 2007 Energy White Paper sets out the Government's policy to promote energy innovation in renewable and low carbon technologies. The Government are supporting a wide range of technology push measures to stimulate research and development through the Research Councils, Technology Strategy Board, Energy Technologies Institute (all DIUS funded) and the Environmental Transformation Fund (DEFRA and BERR funded). The ETF will be the key mechanism for supporting demonstration and early phase deployment for low carbon energy and energy efficiency technologies and will be operational from April 2008. It will include BERR's existing sector specific demonstration programmes such as; Hydrogen Fuel Cell and Carbon Abatement Demonstration Programme, Marine Renewables Deployment Fund Programme, Low Carbon Buildings Programmes, Bioenergy Capital Grants Programme, Offshore Wind Capital Grants Programme.

In addition market pull comes by providing the market mechanisms and incentives such as the renewables obligation (RO) and the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO). The RO will provide by 2010 some £1 billion support for renewable deployment. We are introducing measures to allow banding of the RO, this will provide the generation industry with greater incentive to develop and deploy those technologies which are currently further from commercial deployment. The UK has shown its commitment to a responsible biofuel strategy through the development of the RTFO, which would require the totality of road transport fuel to include a minimum proportion of biofuel, reaching 5 per cent. by volume by 2010-11.

In terms of the heat sector, we have been carrying out further work this year into renewable technologies, policy options and support measures that could further reduce the carbon impact of heat and its use.

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to implement options for utilising a lower carbon grid policy arising from the Prime Minister's commitment to treble the amount of electricity produced from renewable sources by 2015. [168129]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Energy White Paper announced the reform of the renewables obligation which it is estimated will see a trebling in the amount of electricity produced from renewable sources from 4.6 per cent. in 2006 to around 15 per cent. in 2015.

Investment in electricity networks to support these, and other developments, is made by the transmission owners and distribution network operators under the regulatory supervision of Ofgem. Ofgem have agreed £560 million of investment in the transmission network specifically to connect new renewable generation in Scotland and the North of England. In the transmission price control, which covers the five year period from 1 April 2007, a further £3.8 billion of investment in the transmission network was agreed. This figure includes both refurbishment and the costs of connecting new generators of all types and may increase if warranted by generator demand.

We also announced in the Energy White Paper a review of the framework for grid access for renewable generation (the transmission access review). This review will consider ways to better support the connection of renewable generation to the grid.

In addition, my Department has supported innovation in the integration of renewable and other low carbon generating technologies into the electricity networks, through the technology programme, now operated by DIUS through the Technology Strategy Board. The Department has also supported the work of the Electricity Networks Strategy Group, and its predecessor the Distributed Generation Working Group, in successfully addressing a range of grid-related barriers to small renewable generators and other low carbon technologies. The Centre for Distributed Generation and Sustainable

Energy, has also been supported by the Department to the tune of some £2.5 million over five years, in addressing a range of issues relating to the integration of renewable generation.

Since taking powers in the Energy Act 2004 for the Secretary of State to make changes for purposes connected with offshore electricity transmission to codes, licences and agreements, the Department has also been working jointly with Ofgem to establish the details of the new regulatory framework that will deliver grid connections for offshore renewable energy projects. We are continuing to develop the details of the new regime in consultation with industry, and aim to issue final proposals for consultation in June 2008.

**Renewable Energy: National Grid**

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to increase the National Grid's infrastructure capacity to facilitate offshore energy projects; and if he will make a statement. [166972]

**Malcolm Wicks:** Since taking powers in the Energy Act 2004 for the Secretary of State to make changes for purposes connected with offshore electricity transmission to codes, licences and agreements, BERR has been working jointly with Ofgem to establish the details of the new regulatory framework that will deliver the grid connections for offshore energy projects.

We have already concluded that allowing companies to compete for the right to build the offshore grid infrastructure should lead to the most economic and efficient solution for both consumers and generators. We are continuing to develop the details of the new regime in consultation with industry, and aim to issue final proposals for consultation in June 2008.

In terms of investment in the onshore grid over the next few years, Ofgem have agreed £560 million of investment in the transmission network specifically to connect new renewable generation in Scotland and the North of England. In the Transmission Price Control, which covers the five year period from 1st April 2007, a further £3.8 billion of investment in the transmission network was agreed. This figure includes both refurbishment and the costs of connecting new generators of all types and may increase if warranted by generator demand.

**Retail Trade: Mobile Phones**

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of former customers of retail mobile phone companies now in administration who have *(a)* been given notice of legal action and *(b)* been taken to court by the network providers. [169294]

**Mr. McFadden:** The information requested is not held centrally in a readily available format. Any attempt to estimate such numbers would incur disproportionate cost, as it would require information to be sought from a variety of sources and the details of each administration case identified then scrutinised individually.

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of former customers of retail mobile phone companies now in administration who have been given a negative credit reference as a result of action taken by the network providers. [169295]

**Mr. McFadden:** The information requested is not held centrally in a readily available format. Any attempt to estimate such numbers would incur disproportionate cost, as it would require information to be sought from a variety of sources and the details of each administration case identified then scrutinised individually.

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of former customers of retail mobile phone companies now in administration who have been referred to debt collection agencies by the network providers. [169296]

**Mr. McFadden:** The information requested is not held centrally in a readily available format. Any attempt to estimate such numbers would incur disproportionate cost, as it would require information to be sought from a variety of sources and the details of each administration case identified then scrutinised individually.

**Severn Barrage**

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the terms of reference are for the feasibility study on the prospects for a Severn Barrage; and if he will make a statement. [167518]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The detailed remit and cost of the feasibility study is now being scoped. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will make a statement on this early in the new year.

**Small Businesses: Greater London**

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many registered small businesses in London there were in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [169273]

**Mr. Timms:** The stock of VAT-registered businesses in London at the start of each year between 1998 and 2007 is shown in the following table. Although only data for businesses of all sizes registered for VAT is published by BERR, it is estimated that the majority (98 per cent.) of these will have fewer than 50 employees.

*VAT-registered businesses in London, at the start of year, 1998-2007*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 251,585 |
| 1999 | 262,280 |
| 2000 | 270,875 |
| 2001 | 277,595 |
| 2002 | 281,225 |

*VAT-registered businesses in London, at the start of year, 1998-2007*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 282,920 |
| 2004 | 289,130 |
| 2005 | 294,815 |
| 2006 | 301,975 |
| 2007 | 309,225 |

At the start of 1998, there were 252,000 VAT-registered businesses in London. This rose each year to reach 309,000 at the start of 2007, an increase of 23 per cent.

However, VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

### Small Businesses: Non-Domestic Rates

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average value of unmade claims for the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme was in *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* the North East in the last period for which figures are available. [166602]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the take-up of the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme was in *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* the North East in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166603]

**John Healey:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally. However, as at 31 December 2006, the number of businesses in the areas in question that were in receipt of small business rate relief are shown as follows.

| | Number of businesses |
|---|---|
| Middlesbrough | 709 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 778 |
| Teesside[1] | 3,156 |
| North East | 18,344 |

[1] Teesside consists of the unitary authorities of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on Tees.

### South West Regional Development Agency: Public Appointments

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the decision to appoint Christine Channon to the South West Regional Development Agency in November 2004 was made following open competition in accordance with the guidelines set down in the Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice. [169189]

**Mr. Timms:** Ministers make appointments to RDA bards following procedures in the code of practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and also with all relevant legislation.

This particular case followed normal practice of an open competition. The selection panel advised Ministers that several candidates fully satisfied the criteria and made a specific recommendation as to which of these candidates should be appointed.

On the basis of a key paragraph in the code of practice 3.36, however, departmental officials advised Ministers that it was open to them to appoint one of the other candidates judged by the panel as having fully satisfied established criteria if they so chose. On the basis of that advice Ministers appointed the other candidate.

The Department subsequently found that the advice given to Ministers (that they had freedom to choose among the candidates) was wrong. That advice was based on a misunderstanding of a key paragraph in the Code of Practice on Public Appointments, which at that time explicitly stated that

"Ministers will wish to balance boards in terms of diversity as well as skills and experience; consequently Departments may recommend that Ministers appoint any candidate who has fully met the selection criteria in order to assist in achieving a desired balance on a board's membership".

The Commissioner for Public Appointments subsequently revised the relevant paragraph in the code of practice to clarify this issue, it was changed to

"Ministers will wish to balance boards in terms of diversity of skills and experience as set out in the role description and person specification at the commencement of the process."

The Department subsequently revised its processes accordingly to minimise the risk of any further breaches happening of this kind.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what processes were put in place in his Department following the appointment of Christine Channon in 2004 to prevent future such cases arising. [169190]

**Mr. Timms:** As a result of this case, the relevant paragraph in the code of practice 3.36 was changed by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. At the time of the decision, it read

"Ministers will wish to balance boards in terms of diversity as well as skills and experience; consequently Departments may recommend that Ministers appoint any candidate who has fully met the selection criteria in order to assist in achieving a desired balance on a board's membership".

In August 2005 this was changed to read

"Ministers will wish to balance boards in terms of diversity of skills and experience as set out in the role description and person specification at the commencement of the process."

The Department subsequently revised its processes accordingly to minimise the risk of any further breaches happening of this kind.

### Water: Meters

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will

take steps to improve the ability of customers to make an informed choice on the merits of installing a water meter. [169478]

**Mr. Woolas:** I have been asked to reply.

Ofwat requires companies to publicise the options available to household customers for the installation of a free water meter.

The recently announced Green Homes Service will give practical advice to customers on water efficiency, which could include information on the benefits of installing a water meter.

### Wind Power

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department plans to revise ETSU R-97 as it relates to existing and planned wind turbine installations. [169212]

**Malcolm Wicks:** The Government have published two independent studies on noise from wind turbines in 2006 and in 2007, both available on the BERR website at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/explained/wind/onshore/page31267.html

and

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file40570.pdf.

Based on the findings of these studies, the Government will not carry out any further research into noise from wind turbines at this time, however we will continue to keep the issue under review. We continue to support the approach set out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 22- -Renewable Energy. This approach is for local planning authorities to "ensure that renewable energy developments have been located and designed in such a way to minimise increases in ambient noise levels", through the use of the 1997 report by ETSU to assess and rate noise from wind energy developments.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Actis

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish *(a)* the equity holdings in Actis of those members of staff who purchased a 60 per cent. stake from his Department and *(b)* any subsequent changes in equity holdings. [168725]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The equity ownership of the individual members is a matter protected by individual confidentiality.

### Actis: Africa

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of Actis funds investment capital is invested in the poorest quartile of African countries; and if he will list such investments. [168782]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** Actis has approximately US$3.5 billion of funds under management across the emerging markets of which it manages US$1.3 billion in Africa. The proportion of this invested in the poorest quartile[1] is 9 per cent. and includes the following investments:

DFCU Limited, Uganda;

Banro Corporation, Democratic Republic of Congo;

Banque Commerciale du Rwanda, Rwanda.

[1] Data correct at 30 September 2007

### Actis: Pay

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much Actis's Paul Fletcher earned in the last 12 months including expenses, bonuses and pension entitlement. [168783]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The Remuneration Committee of Actis's Supervisory Board is responsible for determining the firm's policy on remuneration. Information about remuneration (salaries and bonus payment) for the partners is detailed in the Report of the Members and Consolidated Financial Statements published with Companies House.

### Actis: Pensions

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what residual pension liabilities his Department has for employees of Actis formerly employed by CDC. [168724]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID has no liabilities for pension payments to CDC or ex-CDC employees; pensions are provided through a funded pension scheme as described in the CDC annual accounts.

### Bond Latin America and the Caribbean Group

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he or his ministerial colleagues will meet representatives of the Bond Latin America and the Caribbean Group. [170331]

**Mr. Malik:** We have been in correspondence with the BOND Latin America and Caribbean Group, and they will meet the head of DFID's Latin America and Caribbean Department.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was.[1] [168597]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** 13 laptops have been stolen from the Department for International Development in 2007, all of which had encrypted hard disks. The estimated value of these laptops was £9,087. No other computers have been stolen from DFID in 2007.

1. *[Official Report, 27 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 18MC.]*

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168104]

**Mr. Malik:** Nationality information is provided by staff on an entirely voluntary basis. Of the 1,721 home civil servants employed by the Department for International Development (DFID), 37 have declared themselves to be EU foreign nationals and a further 35 as non-EU foreign nationals.

DFID also employs 858 staff who were recruited locally to work in our network of offices overseas on local terms and conditions of service. Comprehensive nationality information is not readily available for this group, but it can be assumed that the majority will be nationals of the country in which they were recruited, and would therefore be non-EU foreign nationals.

### Departmental Land

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what land surplus to his Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168851]

**Mr. Malik:** The only land owned by DFID in the UK is our East Kilbride office site with surrounding grounds. There are no plans to sell or lease this property at the moment.

### Departmental Publicity

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167953]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID has spent nothing on promotional advertising in the 12 months since November 2006. In the same period £339,745.70 has been spent on advertising for recruitment and procurement procedures.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the quality of his Department's literature aimed at *(a)* infant, *(b)* junior, *(c)* secondary and *(d)* sixth form pupils; and if he will make a statement. [170684]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID provides funding to organisations that do produce resources for school children and these are evaluated on an individual project basis. We are currently reviewing what more we can do in this area.

### Developing Countries: HIV Infection

**Mr. Kevan Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided for *(a)* care and *(b)* palliative care for those with HIV/AIDS in developing countries under the G8 commitment to universal access to treatment. [168243]

**Mr. Malik:** The UK is the second largest bilateral donor on HIV and AIDS and has pledged to spend £1.5 billion on AIDS programmes over the three years up to 2008. While our statistical system tracks broad areas of expenditure such as HIV and AIDS it does not codify specific subsets such as care and palliative care.

However, care and palliative care are an essential part of a comprehensive response to AIDS. Where DFID is providing significant support to country programmes on HIV and AIDS, this includes components to increase capacity of health systems to provide treatment and care, or to develop home and community-based projects. Examples include DFID's support to develop integrated, community-based, HIV and AIDS home-based care in Zambia, and the Kenyan government's HIV and AIDS prevention and care project which includes a package of community-based care and support.

In addition to our bilateral support to developing countries we also provide support for care and palliative care through our multilateral partners. For example we recently made an unprecedented long-term commitment to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria of up to £1 billion by 2015. The Global Fund is providing significant funds for care and palliative care including support for the roll-out of palliative care in South Africa and Uganda.

### Gaza: Water Supply

**Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of provision of water supplies for the population of Gaza City. [168655]

**Mr. Malik:** The UN monitors the humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. 15 per cent. of the population of the Gaza Strip do not currently have access to an adequate supply of drinking water. The UN's data are not broken down by city.

### Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167929]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID does not provide private health insurance for its civil servants working in the UK or overseas. We do, however, provide such insurance for some of our locally engaged staff overseas where there is no equivalent to the national health service and it is normal practice for comparator employers to include private health insurance as part of the employment package.

DFID has one agency, the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, and this does not employ any staff.

### Iraq: Asylum

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Iraqi refugees in Syria; what discussions he had with the Syrian authorities about

the safe and early return of these refugees; whether the Government are providing financial support to Syria to assist them in housing, feeding and schooling these refugees; and what discussions he has had with *(a)* his European counterparts and *(b)* his American counterpart about this situation. [168624]

**Mr. Malik:** The UN estimates there are between 1.2 and 1.4 million Iraqi refugees in Syria. The UK Government are very concerned about the humanitarian situation for these refugees. Our engagement and support has been through the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), which has an internationally recognised mandate to lead the international response to refugee situations. Their operations are closely co-ordinated with the Syrian Government. Activities include rehabilitation of vacant buildings for housing, food distribution and education initiatives. UNHCR is also investigating reports of increased refugee returns from Syria and the reasons behind such returns. We await the outcome of this work.

Since January, DFID has committed £3 million to UNHCR for their work with Iraqi refugees. This takes our overall Iraq humanitarian response to £15 million this year and to over £130 million since 2003. DFID officials are working closely with American and European aid agencies, such as the European Community Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO), as well as with other partners to co-ordinate programmes and share information.

### Iraq: Reconstruction

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research has been conducted by his Department on UK-funded reconstruction initiatives in Iraq. [168483]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for International Development monitors all of its programmes rigorously, including its reconstruction projects in Iraq. In addition to ongoing evaluation and monitoring, we conduct annual reviews—known as "output to purpose reports". At the end of the project's life, we conduct project completion reports. These reviews are designed to evaluate the extent to which the projects have achieved their purpose, and they include recommendations for future changes in our programmes. Every programme is given a score from one to four to indicate how successful it has been in meeting its objectives.

In addition to our bilateral programmes, we have channelled a significant share of DFID reconstruction funds for Iraq through multilateral agencies such as the United Nations and the World Bank. These agencies have their own internal evaluation processes. For example, DFID has channelled £70 million to the international reconstruction fund facility for Iraq (IRFFI), a multi-donor trust fund which supports projects of the World Bank and UN agencies. We have argued for increased attention to be paid to monitoring and evaluation of IRFFI-funded programmes on Iraq and as a result an independent review of its work is now under way. This is being co-ordinated by the United Nations Office Project Services (UNOPS).

### KPMG

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much his Department has paid to KPMG in each of the last five years; [168151]

(2) what contracts his Department has awarded to KPMG in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* each of the previous five years. [168157]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** The payments made by DFID to KPMG through our central finance system in each of the last five financial years are listed as follows.

| *Financial year* | *Total payments (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 2,341,093 |
| 2005-06 | 2,469,284 |
| 2004-05 | 3,118,634 |
| 2003-04 | 1,059,955 |
| 2002-03 | 2,486,660 |

There may be some small value payments made overseas through local payment systems that we are unable to identify through our central system or able to quantify without incurring disproportionate costs.

All contracts awarded to KPMG and their network of affiliated independent firms, have been detailed in the table for each of the years requested. This does not include lower-value contracts issued by DFID's overseas offices, which could be obtained only by incurring disproportionate cost.

| | | *Contract Value (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| *Contracts awarded 2002-03* | | |
| Russian Regional Finance Reform Technical Assistant Facility | KPMG | 500,000 |
| Medium Term Expenditure Framework Project | KPMG | 1,315,000 |
| Policy Division Change Management Process Consultant | KPMG | 96,250 |
| Safety Security and Access to Justice: Implementation Consultancy | KPMG | 3,151,836 |
| West Bank and Gaza: Governance Advisor | KPMG | 100,363 |
| Results Oriented Management Adviser | KPMG | 323,980 |
| Public Sector Pay and Grading | KPMG | 99,730 |
| Poverty Reduction through Optimising Local Governance Structures in Kenya Management Agent | KPMG | 2,489,350 |
| Support Services for Public Enterprise Restructuring | KPMG | 6,363,425 |
| *Contracts awarded 2003-04* | | |
| Andhra Pradesh Power, Institutional Support and Strengthening of Distribution Companies | KPMG Consulting Private Ltd. (India) | 3,785,948 |
| Support to Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh for Annual Tariff Filing | KPMG Consulting Private Ltd. (India) | 67,981 |

| | | Contract Value (£) |
|---|---|---|
| Public Sector Reform | KPMG East Africa Ltd. | 0 |
| Senior Banking Sector Consultants | KPMG | 0 |
| Civil Service Reform—Interim Programme Manager | KPMG East Africa Ltd. | 60,370 |
| *Contracts awarded 2004-05* | | |
| Financial Sector Deepening Trust To Promote the Development of Financial Markets | KPMG East Africa Ltd. | 322,250 |
| *Contracts awarded 2005-06* | | |
| Joint Account for Pooled Resources for Civic Education | KPMG East Africa Ltd. | 409,712 |
| Support To Madhya Pradesh Electricity Distribution | KPMG Consulting Private Ltd. (India) | 1,715,377 |
| Support To Madhya Pradesh Power Operating Companies for Accounting and Billing | KPMG Consulting Private Ltd. (India) | 1,148,674 |
| *Contracts awarded 2006-07* | | |
| Establishment of a Community Land Use Fund | KPMG Mozambique | 2,344,710 |
| *Contracts awarded 2007-08* | | |
| Managing Consultant for the Governance and Transparency Fund | KPMG Development Services | 1,451,500 |

### Non-Governmental Organisations: Finance

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department provided to each non-governmental organisation (NGO) in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion that funding represented of each NGO's budget in each of those years. [170682]

**Mr. Malik:** Tables showing the Department for International Development's expenditure to UK civil society organisations for the last 10 years have been placed in the Library of the House. Central systems are currently only able to extract information on support provided to UK civil society organisations. Since we do not hold information on the budgets of these organisations, we cannot provide detailed information on DFID funding as a proportion of each NGO's budget.

### Overseas Aid

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that aid supplied in kind by the UK is branded as British. [170683]

**Mr. Malik:** Procedures for branding UK emergency humanitarian aid were put in place earlier this year. These have been deployed for the first time as part of the current operation in respect of Cyclone Sidr, though the first tranche of UK aid provided to Bangladesh was channelled through the United Nations Development Programme to local non-governmental organisations and so was not subject to the new branding.

The branding of non-emergency aid in kind is subject to local flexibility to allow for the management of security risk or other operational factors. We do plan to review our approach to branding of overseas development assistance.

**Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has provided in aid to each recipient country in each of the last 10 years, expressed in 2007 prices. [170685]

**Mr. Malik:** I have placed a table in the Library showing DFID's total bilateral expenditure, in constant 2006-07 prices, by recipient country, in each year since 1997-98.

### Palestine: EU Aid

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1017W, on Palestine: EC aid, what the main conclusions of the European Commission and World Bank report into the effectiveness of the temporary international mechanism were; what changes have been made to the mechanism or its administration in light of the report; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report. [168388]

**Mr. Malik:** The European Commission (EC) released the interim evaluation of the temporary international mechanism (TIM) in October. This concluded that the TIM had successfully maintained basic services; acted rapidly and efficiently and addressed the most urgent priorities.

It concluded that no changes were needed to improve its efficiency or effectiveness, but that future support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) should build the capacity of institutions, through greater integration with PA systems. We are working with the EC to ensure that future funding incorporates the lessons from the TIM Review.

A copy of the report will be placed in the Library.

### Somalia: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of the security of humanitarian assistance to Somalia by the World Food Programme with reference to the increase of piracy incidents in the area. [165990]

**Mr. Thomas:** Security is one of the major challenges in delivering humanitarian assistance to Somalia. Relief agencies are unable to work effectively to assist the most needy people, especially in Mogadishu and the surrounding area, and the threat of piracy makes the delivery of humanitarian assistance more difficult. Transporters demand higher rates because of the risks, and delays are caused when willing transporters cannot be found or cargoes are seized. Three ships have been attacked in 2007. All were returning empty from Somalia to Kenya, and so there was no loss of humanitarian cargo.

The overland route via Kenya does not, however, provide a suitable alternative since it is less efficient and more expensive, with the exception of a few delivery locations adjacent to the Kenya border. There are many incidents of militia groups setting up checkpoints along roads inside Somalia and demanding payments for passage. This happens to such an extent that the World Food Programme (WFP) still prefers to send the bulk of its humanitarian cargo by ship. At present, approximately 80 per cent. of deliveries of WFP food aid to Somalia are by sea.

### Zimbabwe: Human Rights

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. [168544]

**Mr. Thomas:** The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate as a result of economic mismanagement made worse by the effects of a severe drought during the last growing season. An estimated 4.1 million people will need international food aid by the end of the year. Malnutrition has reached concerning levels in a number of districts. The collapse of urban water and sanitation systems in Zimbabwe's main cities has increased numbers of life-threatening diarrhoea outbreaks. HIV/AIDS remains a major problem with 1.8 million affected.

DFID's aid programme is providing substantial direct assistance to protect the livelihoods of more than 1.5 million poor people in Zimbabwe, tackle HIV/AIDS and help meet humanitarian needs. This year we have made an additional contribution of £8 million to the World Food Programme to ensure that food aid reaches those who need it most and £1 million to UNICEF to prepare for and respond to emergency disease outbreaks.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies: Manchester

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who will appoint the board of governors of each of the seven new academies to be established in Manchester; who will *(a)* appoint the head teacher and *(b)* set the schools' goals in each case; what the role of the local authority will be in each case; and if he will make a statement. [168192]

**Jim Knight:** The individual academy trusts will be responsible for appointing the governing bodies of the academies. We have yet to receive detailed governance proposals for all seven academies. However, we anticipate that the lead sponsors will appoint the majority of governors in each case, and that Manchester city council, as one of the co-sponsors, will appoint two governors. Initially, the academy trusts will be responsible for setting the academy goals and appointing the principal, with the governing bodies assuming these responsibilities once they are in place.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who the co-sponsors are of the seven academy projects planned for Manchester; and if he will make a statement. [168193]

**Jim Knight:** The lead and co-sponsors of the Manchester academies programme are as follows:

| *Provisional name* | *Lead sponsor(s)* | *Co-sponsor(s)* | *Specialism* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Business and Enterprise Academy | Manchester Airport | Willow Park Housing Trust, Manchester College of Arts and Technology (MANCAT) Manchester City Council (MCC) | Business and Enterprise |
| Health Academy | Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospital NHS Trust | City College Manchester (CCM) MCC | Health |
| Creative and Media Academy (Boys) | MANCAT | Microsoft ITV Granada CCM BBC MCC | Creative and Media |
| Creative and Media Academy (Girls) | MANCAT | Microsoft ITV Granada CCM BBC MCC | Creative and Media |
| Finance and Business Academy | The Co-operative Group | MCC | Finance and Professional Services |
| Built Environment Academy | Bovis Lend Lease Laing O'Rourke | MANCAT MCC | Construction and the Built Environment |
| Communications Academy | BT | MANCAT CCM MCC | Digital Communications |

### Building Schools for the Future Programme

**Mr. Purchase:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities included in the Building Schools for the Future programme have made submissions which have not included a proposal to open an academy. [168290]

**Jim Knight:** The following list shows the local authorities in waves 1 to 4 of Building Schools for the Future, of which six do not have an open Academy, or one in the pipeline. These are Gateshead, Knowsley, South Tyneside, Tower Hamlets, Cambridgeshire and Somerset. The BSF submissions made by the other authorities may not have included proposals to open an academy, because either they already had an academy open or in the pipeline, or because open or planned academies are outside of the geographical area covered by their BSF projects.

*Wave 1*

Bristol[1] (also W4)
Bradford[1]
Gateshead
Greenwich[1]
Knowsley
Lancashire[1]
Leeds[1]
Leicester[1]
Lewisham (also W3) [1]
Manchester[1] (also W4)
Newcastle Upon Tyne[1]
Sheffield[1] (also W4)
Solihull[1]
South Tyneside
Southwark (also W3) [1]
Stoke-on-Trent[1]
Sunderland[1]
Waltham Forest[1]

*Wave 2*

Birmingham[1]
Hackney[1]
Haringey[1] (also W4)
Islington[1]
Kingston Upon Hull[1]
Lambeth[1]
Liverpool[1]
Middlesbrough[1]
Newham[1]
Nottingham City[1]
Tower Hamlets

*Wave 3*

Barnsley[1]
Derbyshire[1]
Durham[1]
Kent[1] (also W4)
Luton[1]
North Lincolnshire[1]
Salford[1]
Sandwell[1]
Tameside[1]
Westminster[1]

*Wave 4*

Barking and Dagenham[1]
Blackburn with Darwin[1]
Cambridgeshire
Coventry[1]
Essex[1]
Hertfordshire[1]
Oldham[1]
Rochdale[1]
Somerset
Telford and Wrekin[1]

[1] Indicates that the local authority either has an Academy open or one in the pipeline

### Bullying: Internet

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the incidence of bullying of children *(a)* via the internet and *(b)* by mobile phone text messaging. [168947]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* We are unable to provide definitive figures for numbers of bullying incidents at school as we do not collect these data centrally. However our recent guidance on cyberbullying, incorporated as part of our comprehensive anti-bullying guidance "Safe to Learn: embedding anti-bullying work in schools", included a range of survey evidence on the extent of cyberbullying. This is summarised as follows:

Research carried out for the Anti-Bullying Alliance by Goldsmiths College found that 22 per cent. of 11 to 16-year-olds had been a victim of cyberbullying;

The MSN cyberbullying report (2006) found that 11 per cent. of UK teens had experienced cyberbullying;

Noret and River's four year study on bullying (2007) found that 15 per cent. of the 11,227 children surveyed had received nasty or aggressive texts and e-mails, and demonstrated a year on year increase in the number of children who are bullied using new technology;

Research conducted as part of the DCSF cyberbullying information campaign found that 34 per cent. of 12 to 15-year-olds reported having been cyberbullied.

### Children in Care: Boarding Schools

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the implementation by local authorities of the policy of offering boarding school education where appropriate to looked-after children. [169626]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The Thomas Coram Research Unit of the Institute of Education is evaluating the work of the 12 local authorities that are part of pathfinder arrangements for placing vulnerable children in boarding schools. Regular reports are made to the project's steering group and the full evaluation report will be published in October 2008.

### Children in Care: Pupil Exclusions

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children in the care of each local authority were excluded from school in each of the last three years; [167599]

(2) how many children in the care of a local authority placed outside that authority area were excluded from school in each of the last three years, broken down by authority. [167600]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

The first year for which an in-care indicator was directly collected for permanently excluded pupils was 2005/06, collected in January 2007 via the School Census. The Department holds this information at individual level but this is not readily available at either local authority or national level.

Exclusions data for the 2006/07 school year are expected to be available in June 2008.

## Children: Abuse

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children who were referred for an initial assessment from social services were suspected to be in danger of *(a)* abuse and *(b)* neglect in the latest period for which figures are available; [170799]

(2) how many children *(a)* received a core assessment from social services and *(b)* had further contact with social services as a result of their core assessment in the latest period for which figures are available; [170800]

(3) how many children were *(a)* referred for an initial assessment from social services and *(b)* received an initial assessment from social services in each of the last five years; [170801]

(4) what proportion of core assessments for children referred to children's social care were completed within the target timescale of 35 working days from the day of the initial assessment in the latest period for which figures are available. [170802]

**Kevin Brennan:** The available information can be found in SFR28/2007, Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan or are on Child Protection Registers, at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000742/index.shtml on the Department's website. The answer to question 170799 can be found in table E, the other available answers are in table A. The department does not hold information on the number of children who had further contact with social services as a result of their core assessment (PQ170800 part b).

*Table A: Referrals of children and young people to children's social care services, and assessments completed Years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007 Coverage: England*

| | Number | | | | | Percentage | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| *Referrals of children to children's social care services*[1] | | | | | | | | | | |
| All referrals during year | 570,200 | 572,700 | 552,000 | 569,300 | 545,000 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| *of which:* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Referrals within 12 months of a previous referral[2] | 125,900 | 127,400 | 121,800 | 132,500 | 123,900 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 23 |
| *Initial assessments completed in the year*[1] | | | | | | | | | | |
| All initial assessments completed in the year | 263,900 | 290,800 | 290,300 | 300,200 | 305,000 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| *of which:* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Initial assessments completed within 7 working days of referral | 149,400 | 169,100 | 179,200 | 194,900 | 208,700 | 57 | 58 | 62 | 65 | 68 |
| Initial assessments completed in year as a percentage of all referrals in year | — | — | — | — | — | 46 | 51 | 53 | 53 | 56 |
| *Core assessments completed in the year*[1] | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total number of core assessments completed in the year | 55,700 | 63,600 | 74,100 | 84,800 | 93,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| *of which:* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Core assessments completed within 35 working days of initial assessments[3] | 31,000 | 39,400 | 49,700 | 63,100 | 73,300 | 56 | 62 | 67 | 74 | 78 |

[1] Figures for referrals, initial assessments and core assessments include unborn children.
[2] Re-referrals relate to a previous referral to the same authority only.
[3] Or within 35 working days of the trigger event where this was not an initial assessment. Indicator C 64 of the Performance Assessment Framework: The proportion of core assessments that were completed within 35 working days of their commencement.
*Source:*
CPR3

*Table E: Children who became the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP)1 , by category of abuse Years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007*
*Coverage: England*

| | *Number* | | | | | *Percentage* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Category of abuse* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| Neglect | 11,700 | 12,600 | 13,200 | 13,700 | 14,800 | 39 | 41 | 43 | 43 | 44 |
| Physical abuse | 5,700 | 5,800 | 5,500 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 19 | 19 | 18 | 16 | 15 |
| Sexual abuse | 3,000 | 2,800 | 2,700 | 2,600 | 2,500 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| Emotional abuse | 5,400 | 5,700 | 5,700 | 6,700 | 7,800 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 21 | 23 |
| Mixed / not recommended by 'Working Together | 4,400 | 4,300 | 3,700 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 15 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 10 |

[1] Where a child was made the subject of a child protection plan (registered) more than once in the year within the same authority, each registration has been counted. These include unborn children.
*Source:*
CPR3

## Children: Databases

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be able to access information from eCaf. [167444]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* We are to commission a detailed survey of the number of practitioners who will need to have access to the eCAF system.

However, it should be noted that security arrangements within the eCAF system will ensure that practitioners will only be allowed access to the entries for children with whom they are, legitimately, working and even then, only with the informed, explicit consent of the child or young person (or their parent/carer where appropriate).

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other Departments and Government agencies are eligible to have access to the entire content of the ContactPoint database. [167971]

**Kevin Brennan:** No officials from the Department will have access to records held on ContactPoint. Once ContactPoint is deployed, local authority data controllers will have responsibility for the accuracy of records of children and young people ordinarily resident in their areas. Government Departments, local authorities and agencies—for example the NHS, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre (CEOP), and the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)—whose staff are responsible for safeguarding children and ensuring their well-being, and who need to use ContactPoint as part of their job, will be able to access and amend child records for children with whom they are working. The significant majority of users will be children's services practitioners, not government officials.

We have contracted with Capgemini for the purposes of operating the national system, maintaining data quality and technical system support. The computer system will be in a secure location, physically removed from the Department.

There are a number of tests that must be carried out prior to the deployment of ContactPoint in respect of data management, user acceptance, and security which will involve a small number of local authority data managers and data specialists from within the ContactPoint project.

Everyone involved in the tests will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check before they access any live data. The majority of these tests will be carried out using 'synthetic' test data. Where live data are used, the tests will be carried out in a physically isolated, secure test environment.

Access to ContactPoint will be strictly limited to those who need it to do their job. The number of users is estimated to be around 330,000 and will include small teams of data administrators in each local authority area and practitioners from education, Connexions, health, social care, youth offending services, police and the voluntary sector. These persons are clearly specified in regulation 9 and schedule 3 of the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007, and will be able to access individual records after providing a legitimate reason to do so, but will not be able to view or download the entire database.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what account he plans to take of the findings of the Making ContactPoint Work initiative conducted by the Children's Rights Director for England in the development of ContactPoint; [168727]

(2) if he will review the number of people to whom his Department will make the details stored on ContactPoint available with a view to reducing risks of deliberate and inadvertent misuse of personal data; [168728]

(3) if he will reduce the number of children on whom ContactPoint will store information; [168922]

(4) what discussions his Department has had on access to ContactPoint since 15 November 2007. [168923]

**Kevin Brennan:** We welcome the report 'Making ContactPoint Work', published last week by the Children's Rights Director for England, Roger Morgan. In fact, my Department specifically requested Roger Morgan to ask children what they thought of the proposals set out in draft Government guidance about ContactPoint. We acknowledge fully and understand that children and young people quite reasonably want reassurances about security and access.

The views of children and young people are central to the development of ContactPoint. In fact, 'Making ContactPoint Work', representing the views of 62 children, is a small part of the overall consultation DCSF has undertaken with children and young people. More than 1,000 children have already been consulted about ContactPoint and overall findings have shown that, once young people understand what ContactPoint is, they usually agree it is a positive thing. The views and issues they raise have played, and continue to play, an important role in the development of ContactPoint. Further consultation with young people and parents and carers is planned.

Access to ContactPoint will be limited strictly to those who need it to do their job (currently estimated at around 330,000 practitioners). All users will be subject to stringent security controls and, before being granted access, must have completed mandatory face-to-face training, have obtained security clearance (including enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance) and have a user name, a password, a PIN and a security token to control their access to ContactPoint. Mandatory face-to-face training will include the safe and secure use of ContactPoint and the importance of compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and Human Rights Act 1998.

To gain access to a child's record, all users will have to state clear reasons why they are accessing ContactPoint. All use of the system will be monitored and audited and every access to a child's record will be detailed in the ContactPoint audit trail. This will be regularly monitored by local authorities, using online User Activity Reports, to ensure that any misuse is detected and that appropriate action is taken.

ContactPoint will include all children in England because it is not possible to predict accurately, in advance, which children will need additional services. Any child or young person could require the support of additional services at any time in their childhood. We want to support early intervention for children to help prevent situations becoming critical.

Officials at the DCSF were briefed, on 20 November, by Treasury colleagues about the loss of the data at the HMRC. DCSF Ministers have been kept closely informed about how the issue is being dealt with at HMRC and the other agencies involved.

As soon as we were aware of the issue, we made contact with the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre and HM Treasury to identify any potential children's welfare issues. As child safety and welfare issues are an absolute priority for us, we are maintaining close contact with the agencies involved to ensure that we all remain vigilant to any child welfare issues that may arise.

On Tuesday 20 November, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, asked the Department's Permanent Secretary to conduct an immediate assessment of how personal data are stored and protected in the Department. The Permanent Secretary reported back within 24 hours to confirm the Department is confident that we have very robust procedures in place. In light of the security breach at the HMRC, we are continuing to check our procedures to ensure standards are as high as they can be. On Wednesday 21 November, the Prime Minister confirmed this approach when he asked all Departments to check their procedures for the storage and use of data. Given the obvious importance of ensuring that ContactPoint has extremely robust security measures in place, the Secretary of State, also on Tuesday 20 November, asked for an independent assessment of its security procedures, which will be conducted by Deloitte.

### Children: Day Care

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what child care provisions are available for refugee and asylum-seeking women who are taking English for speakers of other languages classes; and if he will make a statement. [162226]

**Caroline Flint:** I have been asked to reply.

It is up to local authorities to ensure there are sufficient child care places available to meet local demand. They receive funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families which can be used to secure sufficient child care in line with local needs.

Subject to their individual circumstances, refugees have access to the full range of benefits and services provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. This includes Jobcentre Plus customers on New Deal for Lone Parents or New Deal for Partners, who can access child care to allow them to participate in the provision. This includes English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) training.

More generally, ESOL classes are provided by the Learning and Skills Council. Attendance for ESOL training is voluntary and while attending such courses, there are a number of ways that learners can access child care provision. DWP's Employability Skills Programme learners in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and undertaking a programme of a minimum of 20 hours per week are eligible for help with child care costs. The discretionary Learner Support Fund allocated to providers by the Learning and Skills Council can be used to support child care costs for learners aged 20 and above. Some local European Social Funding allocations can also be used to support child care costs. This varies from project to project depending on the scope and purpose of the project. In addition to this, learning undertaken by parents through Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy can also offer child care provision in some places. This support is not mandatory but informal arrangements are made by a number of providers.

None of the funding available from Department for Work and Pensions or the Learning and Skills Council is available to asylum seekers; The Border and

Immigration Agency (BIA) provide support to asylum seekers, and their dependants, who are destitute or likely to become destitute in the immediate future. No specific child care provision for asylum-seeking women who are taking English for speakers of other languages classes is given.

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what data his Department collects on the take-up of child care by families on low incomes. [169309]

**Beverley Hughes:** The Parents' Childcare Survey collects information on take-up of child care by household income. The 2004 survey showed that higher income families were more likely to have used child care in the last week than lower income families; 73 per cent. of families with a yearly income over £32,000 had used any child care in the last week, compared with 56 per cent. of families with a yearly income of under £10,000[1].

[1] Childcare and Early Years Provision: A Study of Parents' Use, Views and Experiences, Research Report 723; DfES. Bryson, C., Kazimirski, A. and Southwood, H. (2006). This report is available at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR723.pdf

*Percentage*

| | *Under £10,000* | *£10,000 to £19,999* | *£20,000 to £31,999* | *£32,000+* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Used any child care | 56 | 60 | 68 | 73 |
| Used formal care | 31 | 36 | 43 | 52 |
| Used informal care | 38 | 41 | 45 | 45 |

By 2008, the Department aims to increase the number of children in lower-income working families using formal child care by 120,000 children from the 2004-05 baseline of 614,000 children. This baseline is estimated from the 2004 Parents' Childcare Survey data.

This forms part of the PSA target to 'Safeguard children and young people, improve their life outcomes and general well-being, and break cycles of deprivation' and will contribute to achieving this target by helping to reduce the proportion of children living in households where no-one is working.

The figures showing progress towards this target will be available in February 2008 when the results of the 2007 Parents' Childcare Survey will be published.

### Children: Disability Aids

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the provision of alternative and augmentative communication equipment aids for children with disabilities. [168778]

**Jim Knight:** The Government recently launched the Bercow Review, which is an independent review of speech and language provision, led by John Bercow MP and supported by officials from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health (DH). One of the specific issues to be considered by the review will be the effective provision of assistive and augmentative communication (AAC) technology.

The review is currently seeking evidence from all interested groups and individuals, including through a focus group facilitated by Scope which will consider the provision of alternative and augmentative communication equipment aids. The Government will respond to the Review's findings and recommendations following publication of the final report in July 2008.

Also, the Department of Health are leading on a review on community equipment, launched together with the wheelchair services review in June 2006. On completion of the review, the Government plan to deliver a radical reform of community equipment, with full consideration of and provision for the needs of children. On completion of the community equipment review, my Department will work closely with the Department of Health to assist in the implementation of the recommendations.

### Children: Sexual Offences

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps have been taken by his Department to tackle child sexual exploitation. [167547]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has taken a number of steps to tackle child sexual exploitation, including publication in April 2006 of the updated 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', the main inter-agency guide to working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. 'Working Together' stresses the need to treat children involved in prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation primarily as the victims of abuse and advises that agencies should work together to develop local protocols. It also includes guidance for practitioners on sharing information with children's social care and the police about underage sexual activity, in response to recommendation 13 of the Bichard Inquiry Report, and sets out a number of considerations that practitioners should take into account in assessing when and how to share information about underage sexual activity. These include indicators of possible sexual exploitation. We have also established Local Safeguarding Children Boards, which have a role in co-ordinating work to safeguard children from sexual exploitation in each local area; and have published draft guidance to help agencies safeguard children who may have been trafficked. We are currently updating 'Safeguarding Children involved in prostitution', which was originally published in 2000 as supplementary guidance to the 1999 edition of 'Working Together'. The revised guidance will have a wider scope and cover safeguarding children from sexual exploitation more generally.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167379]

**Kevin Brennan:** This Department does not hold the information in the format required. Our performance for correspondence from MPs and Peers is published annually by way of a written ministerial statement. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has only been in existence since June 2007; performance figures for the Department for Education and Skills for 2006 were published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS. Information for DfES and DCSF for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the calendar year.

Overall performance for all correspondence (MPs, Peers and the public) is given in the Department's annual report. The DfES Annual Report for 2007 was published in May this year and is available on the Department's website:

www.dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

### Departmental Manpower

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained *(A)* temporary and *(B)* permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165103]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department was formed as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. Numbers of staff recruited to the new Department since then have been small. The figures are set out by the relevant age bands in the following table:

| *Age range* | *Permanent* | *Temporary* |
|---|---|---|
| under 30 | 40 | 11 |
| 30-39 | 33 | 3 |
| 40-49 | 18 | 1 |
| 50-59 | 8 | 0 |
| 60-69 | 0 | 0 |

Detailed information on applicants and interviews is held by individual teams and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164934]

**Kevin Brennan:** Three civil servants support the special advisers in the Department. They provide administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Office costs will be accounted for in the 2007/08 departmental annual report and accounts.

### Departmental Orders and Regulations

**Alan Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many regulations his Department and its predecessors *(a)* made and *(b)* revoked in the last 12 months. [167080]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and its predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), in as much as DfES covered areas of work now covered by DCSF, made 97 regulations and revoked 55 in the 12 months which ended on 27 November 2007.

### Departmental Property

**David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department and its predecessor on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164378]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information is as follows:

| | *Amount (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 1,300,503.00 |
| 2003-04 | 378,638.00 |
| 2004-05 | 764,021.00 |
| 2005-06 | 745,000.00 |
| 2006-07 | 2,175,000.00 |

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library copies of each document prepared for each of his Department's citizens' juries. [164857]

**Jim Knight:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families has conducted five citizens' juries, one in Bristol on 6 September and four other deliberative debates in London, Leeds, Portsmouth and Birmingham all held on 29 September. Copies of the programmes, including questions debated and other relevant material from these juries have been placed in the House Library as requested.

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167280]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department came into being as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. The following tables therefore apply to the current year only. A total of *(a)* 81 staff are seconded to the Department and *(b)* 38 from the Department, with the specific numbers and organisations listed in the following tables.

Secondments are normally for a period of between three months and three years. The Department normally meets the costs of inward secondees, with the host organisations meeting outward secondee costs. Details of specific individual placement costs could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but as a

guideline all of the secondments listed are at standard civil service grades from administrative assistant to Grade 6.

| Organisation | Number of inward secondees 2007 |
|---|---|
| London borough of Ealing | 1 |
| NHS Business Services Authority | 1 |
| Northamptonshire county council | 2 |
| Commission for Social Care Inspection | 5 |
| Cheshire county council | 1 |
| Leicestershire county council | 1 |
| London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham | 1 |
| City of Sunderland Children's Services | 1 |
| Westminster city council | 1 |
| East Sussex county council | 1 |
| Wokingham district council | 1 |
| CSWP, Connexions Coventry and Warwickshire | 1 |
| Rochdale metropolitan borough council | 1 |
| Centre for British Teachers | 1 |
| Bath and North East Somerset council | 1 |
| Southend-on-Sea county council | 1 |
| Haringey council | 1 |
| Buckinghamshire county council | 1 |
| Rotherham metropolitan borough council | 1 |
| Lancashire county council | 3 |
| Lincolnshire South West PCT | 1 |
| Wiltshire county council | 1 |
| London borough of Enfield | 1 |
| Redcar and Cleveland borough council | 1 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust | 1 |
| Education Leeds | 2 |
| East of England Health Authority | 1 |
| South West Peninsula Strategic Health Authority | 1 |
| Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Trust | 1 |
| Devon county council | 1 |
| Sefton MBC | 1 |
| Cornwall county council | 1 |
| Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority | 1 |
| North Yorkshire county council | 1 |
| Hertfordshire county council | 2 |
| Cambridgeshire county council | 1 |
| Kingston Upon Hull city council | 1 |
| Swindon borough council | 1 |
| BBC | 1 |
| Edexcel | 1 |
| Leeds Metropolitan University | 1 |
| Nottinghamshire county council | 2 |
| Service Birmingham | 1 |
| Essex county council | 1 |
| Farming and Countryside Education | 1 |
| Highcliffe School | 1 |
| Garforth Community College | 1 |
| Fullbrook School | 1 |
| Diocese of Bath and Wells | 1 |
| Oxfordshire county council | 1 |
| University of Wolverhampton | 1 |
| Norfolk county council | 1 |
| Dorset county council | 2 |
| CFBT | 1 |
| Manchester city council | 1 |
| Wootton Bassett School | 1 |
| Buckinghamshire LEA | 1 |
| Slough borough council | 1 |
| Crown Hills Community College | 1 |
| Building Research Establishment | 1 |
| Rotherham LEA | 1 |
| Greig City Academy | 1 |
| Doncaster MBC | 1 |
| Worcestershire county council | 1 |
| The King John School | 1 |
| St. Mary's Catholic High School | 1 |
| Fred Longworth High School | 1 |
| Business in the Community | 1 |
| Haybridge High School and Sixth Form | 1 |
| British High Commission NZ | 1 |

| Organisation | Number of outward secondees 2007 |
|---|---|
| Sheffield city council | 1 |
| Industrial Trust | 1 |
| General Social Care Council | 1 |
| National Children's Bureau | 1 |
| Green Dreams | 1 |
| Learning and Teaching Scotland | 1 |
| NASS | 1 |
| Darlington borough council | 1 |
| Children's Workforce Development Council | 3 |
| Croydon council | 1 |
| Skills for Care | 1 |
| HM Prison Service | 1 |
| TDA | 1 |
| Royal National Institute for Deaf People | 1 |
| Royal Anniversary Trust | 1 |
| National School for Government | 1 |
| Tribal Education and Technology | 1 |
| TUC Unionlearn NW | 1 |
| Rotherham metropolitan borough council | 1 |
| Sector Skills Development Agency | 1 |
| Centre for Excellence in Leadership | 1 |
| Skills for Health | 1 |
| NSW Department for Education and Training | 1 |
| East Sussex county council | 1 |
| Doncaster LEA | 1 |
| Women's National Commission | 1 |
| London borough of Waltham Forest | 1 |
| Fathers Direct | 1 |
| Basque Regional Government | 1 |
| London borough of Hackney | 1 |

| Organisation | Number of outward secondees 2007 |
|---|---|
| London borough of Tower Hamlets | 1 |
| National College for School Leadership | 1 |
| Surrey county council | 1 |
| Voluntary Action Rotherham | 1 |
| Farming and Countryside Education | 1 |
| Skills for Justice | 1 |

### Education: Assessments

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the costs of administering national tests at *(a)* Key Stage 1, *(b)* Key Stage 2, *(c)* Key Stage 3, *(d)* Key Stage 4 and *(e)* AS level were in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [163447]

(2) what the cost of the national examination and national testing systems in England was for all maintained schools in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [163448]

**Jim Knight:** The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's estimate of the costs of delivering the national curriculum tests for Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 are as follows:

| | Total cost of NCT |
|---|---|
| | £000 |
| 2007-08 | 50,570 |
| 2006-07 | 51,559 |
| 2005-06 | 51,743 |
| 2004-05 | 43,828 |
| 2003-04 | 40,231 |
| 2002-03 | 38,944 |
| 2001-02 | 28,074 |
| 2000-01 | 28,014 |
| 1999-2000 | 25,693 |
| 1998-99 | 19,672 |

QCA's records do not support the split of this information between the various key stages.

Public examinations at Key Stage 4 and GCE AS level are administered by independent awarding bodies. Information on their costs is not collected centrally in the form requested. There are no fees for national curriculum tests for maintained schools. The information in the following table covers the costs incurred by all local authority maintained primary, secondary and special schools, for test administration and examination entry fees and any accreditation costs related to pupils taking GCSEs, GNVQs, AS and A2 qualifications.

| Academic year[1] | £ million<br>Amount spent on examination entries |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 156 |
| 2003-04 | 174 |
| 2004-05 | 198 |
| 2005-06 | 220 |

[1] It was only in 2002-03 that the Department began collecting information in sufficient detail to answer this question.

These costs, essential for recognising individual achievement and monitoring the performance of the system, represent a small fraction of the total annual public investment in education.

### Education: Cost Efficiency

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of the planned efficiency savings under the Spending Review 2004 are expected to be generated by *(a)* Using Cover Supervisors, listed as element A1(b) on page 7, *(b)* Pay Restructuring, listed as element A1(c) on page 7 and *(c)* Modernisation of the Teachers Pension Scheme, listed as element A1(d) on page 8 of the departmental Efficiency Technical Note of April 2006. [167725]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 267W, to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable). Details of DCSF's progress towards our Gershon target will be reported in the Department's Autumn Performance Report. This will be published on 7 December 2007.

### Education: Disabled

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what studies his Department has made of the effectiveness of assistive technologies to assist with the learning of visually impaired and dyslexic children in primary and secondary schools. [165767]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has not carried out formal studies into the effectiveness of assistive technologies. The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice which provides advice on carrying out statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for pupils' special educational needs says that schools should explore the possible benefits of, and where practicable, secure access for a pupil to appropriate technology. The code also makes it clear that local authorities and schools must make decisions about which actions and provision are appropriate for which pupils on an individual basis.

The Department is currently working with RNIB and a number of other organisations including the British Dyslexia Association to improve the provision of educational materials in accessible formats in schools.

### Education: Immigrants

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of migration from A8 countries on education spending per capita in each Government Office of the region. [167646]

**Jim Knight:** The Government have made no specific assessment of the effect of migration from A8 countries on education spending per capita in each Government Office region. School funding is based on overall pupil projections, using ONS population projections, which take account of migration and birth

rate. School funding for individual local authorities is allocated on actual pupil numbers based on the January school census.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has recently announced an additional exceptional circumstances grant to local authorities with significant extra pressures on their schools budgets from new arrivals, between January and the start of the school-year. This will be on a case by case basis when there is a significant increase in pupil numbers in a local authority; or where the proportion of EAL pupils significantly increases in a local authority.

### Educational Institutions: Crime

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in Romford have been charged with a criminal offence by the police for incidents that took place *(a)* in educational institutions or *(b)* on school property in each of the last five years. [168423]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not collected centrally.

### Free School Meals

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the change in the proportion of children entitled to free school dinners at *(a)* denominational primary schools, *(b)* denominational secondary schools, *(c)* maintained primary schools, *(d)* maintained secondary schools, *(e)* grammar schools and *(f)* academies in each year since 1990. [167575]

**Jim Knight:** The available information for 1997, 2002 and 2007 is given in the table:

*Maintained primary and secondary schools [1]: School meal arrangements by denomination of school Position in January each year: 1997, 2002 and 2007—England*

| | *Maintained primary schools* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Faith schools* | | | *Other schools* | | | *Total* | |
| | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* |
| 1997 [2] | 1,235,350 | 205,660 | 16.6 | 3,193,260 | 732,860 | 23.0 | 4,428,620 | 938,540 | 21.2 |
| 2002 [2] | 1,223,840 | 154,100 | 12.6 | 3,139,430 | 596,500 | 19.0 | 4,363,260 | 750,590 | 17.2 |
| 2007 [3] | 1,198,860 | 139,100 | 11.6 | 2,911,890 | 516,400 | 17.7 | 4,110,750 | 655,510 | 15.9 |

| | *Maintained secondary schools* | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Faith schools* | | | *Other schools* | | | *Total* | |
| | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* |
| 1997 [2] | 604 | 91,460 | 15.1 | 2,432,210 | 461,440 | 19.0 | 3,036,990 | 552,900 | 18.2 |
| 2002 [2] | 500 | 65,090 | 13.0 | 2,760,000 | 421,270 | 15.3 | 3,260,930 | 486,350 | 14.9 |
| 2007 [3] | 526 | 59,830 | 11.4 | 2,745,880 | 369,870 | 13.5 | 3,272,460 | 429,700 | 13.1 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Number of pupils include those with sole and dual registration. Excludes boarders.
[3] Includes pupils with sole and dual main registration. Includes boarders.
*Note:*
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
*Source:*
School Census

*Secondary schools: School meal arrangements Position in January each year: 1997, 2002 and 2007—England*

| | *Maintained secondary schools* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Grammar schools* | | | *Other maintained secondary schools* | | |
| | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* |
| 1997 [2] | 127,780 | 4,730 | 3.7 | 2,909,220 | 548,170 | 18.8 |
| 2002 [2] | 147,790 | 3,260 | 2.2 | 3,113,140 | 483,090 | 15.5 |
| 2007 [3] | 156,870 | 3,140 | 2.0 | 3,115,610 | 426,560 | 13.7 |

| | *Maintained secondary schools* | | | *Academies* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Total* | | | | |
| | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Number of pupils* | *Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* | *Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals* |
| 1997 [2] | 3,036,990 | 552,900 | 18.2 | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| | Maintained secondary schools | | | Academies | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of pupils | Total Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | Number of pupils | Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals |
| 2002 [2] | 3,260,930 | 486,350 | 14.9 | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 2007 [3] | 3,272,480 | 429,700 | 13.1 | 41,561 | 13,894 | 33.4 |

n/a = not available
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Number of pupils include those with sole and dual registration. Excludes boarders.
[3] Includes pupils with sole and dual main registration. Includes boarders.
*Note:*
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
*Source:*
School Census

## Free School Meals: Havering

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students in *(a)* Romford and *(b)* the London borough of Havering is eligible to receive free school meals. [168337]

**Jim Knight:** The available information is given in the table and relates to the number of pupils who are known to be eligible for, and are claiming, free school meals.

*Maintained primary and secondary schools [1]: school meal arrangements As at January 2007*

| | Maintained primary schools | | Maintained secondary schools | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Romford parliamentary constituency | Havering local authority area | Romford parliamentary constituency | Havering local authority area |
| Number on roll [2] | 6,809 | 19,130 | 4,337 | 16,599 |
| Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 703 | 2,154 | 438 | 1,560 |
| Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals | 10.3 | 11.3 | 10.1 | 9.4 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual (main) registration.
*Source:*
School Census

## General Certificate of Secondary Education; Standards

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in *(a)* England, *(b)* London, *(c)* the London Borough of Havering and *(d)* Romford constituency achieved more than five A*-C grades at GCSE in each year since 1997. [168338]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested can be found in the following table.

*Percentage of 15-year-old pupils achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent*

| | (a) England | (b) London | (c) Havering local authority | (d) Romford constituency |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1996/97 | 45.1 | 40.4 | 48.1 | 41.7 |
| 1997/98 | 46.3 | 42.1 | 50.1 | 42.6 |
| 1998/99 | 47.9 | 43.6 | 54.2 | 46.8 |
| 1999/2000 | 49.2 | 45.0 | 55.8 | 48.4 |
| 2000/01 | 50.0 | 46.1 | 55.7 | 47.6 |
| 2001/02 | 51.6 | 48.5 | 57.3 | 52.8 |
| 2002/03 | 52.9 | 50.7 | 60.8 | 58.2 |
| 2003/04 | 53.7 | 53.0 | 62.6 | 62.3 |
| 2004/05 | 56.3 | 55.3 | 61.1 | 55.0 |
| 2005/06 | 58.5 | 58.0 | 63.1 | 63.4 |
| 2006/07 | 60.3 | 59.4 | 63.9 | — |

*Notes:*
Figures for 2006/07 are provisional, all other figures are final.
Based on age at the start of the school year ie 31 August.
Constituency level figures are not yet available for 2006/07.

## Geronimo Communications

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what tendering arrangements were used to select Geronimo Communications for departmental contracts since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [166342]

**Kevin Brennan:** Geronimo Communications have had a contractual relationship with the Department since 1999. The first two contracts were as a result of competitive domestic tenders. Contractual arrangements since 2000 have been won by EU tenders advertised in the OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union). Projects since 2000 have been placed with Geronimo Communications via the subsequent framework agreements set up as a result of the EU tenders.

The breakdown is as follows:

| Contract Number | Dates | Tender method | Services covered |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1840 | 2007-2010-11 | OJEU 2006 | Writing and Editorial |
| 1665 | 2004-2009 | OJEU 2003 | PR |
| 1490 | 2000-2004 | OJEU 2000 | PR |
| 1427 | 2000-2001 | Domestic tender 99 | PR |
| 1384 | 1999-2000 | Domestic tender 99 | PR |

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 158W, what services were provided to his Department and its predecessors by Geronimo Communications in each year since 1999-2000; and if he will make a statement. [166506]

**Kevin Brennan:** Geronimo has provided media relations support within departmental information campaigns (often concentrating on local and regional media and specialist media outlets). While in some campaigns their contribution has worked alongside advertising, in many others it is the main plank of the campaign strategy.

The campaigns in which Geronimo has worked are:

1999-2000
New deal for young people (18-24) and over 25s
Millennium volunteers
Age diversity
2000-01
New deal for young people (18-24) and over 25s
Millennium volunteers
Age diversity
IT learning centres
Uk online centres
Connexions
2001-02
Millennium volunteers
UK online centres
Foundation degrees
Dads and lads
Widening access to higher education
Age positive advertising
Access to learning for adults
Aim higher
2002-03
Millennium volunteers
UK on-line centres
Connexions
Dads and sons
Aim higher
Corporate publicity
2003-04
Millennium volunteers
UK online centres
Connexions
Aim higher
2004-05
Millennium volunteer of the year 2004-05
Aim higher
2005-06
Aim higher
Press cuttings
Encouraging parents
Parents information marketing
London challenge
City academies
2006-07
Aim higher
Attendance
London challenge
City academies
2007-08
Aim higher
Children's plan consultation
Early years careers
Childcare and early learning
Extended schools
London challenge and city challenge
Attendance
City academies
Student finance fulfilment
Diplomas

The campaigns for 2007-08 include ones for the newly created Department for Universities, Innovation and Skills, where these relate to areas formerly the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills.

### Gifted Children: Romford

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students in Romford is on the Gifted and Talented programme. [168336]

**Jim Knight:** There are currently 1,559 children and young people identified as gifted and talented by their maintained primary and secondary schools in Romford which is 14 per cent. of the total maintained school population in the local authority. All these students are eligible to join the new Young Gifted and Talented Learner Academy (YG and T).

### Headteachers

**Mr. Paterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, when he plans to convene the new forum of head teachers referred to by the Prime Minister; who he expects its members to be; what he expects the costs to be; and if he will make a statement. [168439]

**Jim Knight:** We are in discussion with head teachers on how to convene the forum and what its role will be. We expect the costs to be minimal.

### Higher Education

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of 16-year olds went on to *(a)* A levels, *(b)* further education, *(c)* other vocational training and *(d)* higher education in (i) Southend and (ii) each local authority in Essex in each of the last two years for which figures are available. [167391]

**Jim Knight:** The following tables show the proportion of all academic age 16-year-olds participating in maintained schools, independent schools, sixth form colleges, other further education institutions and work based learning. The figures are provided for Southend-on-Sea, Essex and Thurrock for

2004 and 2005, the last two years for which figures are available. Participation by local authority is not broken down by the qualifications being studied.

Participation of 16-year-olds in education and training is published in the Statistical First Release, Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England: 2005 and 2006 and Participation in Education and Training by 16 and 17 Year Olds in each Local Area in England: 2004 and 2005. Please see the following link:

http://www.dfees.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml

*Table 1: Participation in education and training of 16 year olds by LEAs in Essex, 2005, full-time education*

| | | | | | | | *Percentage of 16-year olds* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained schools*[1] | *Independent schools*[2] | *Sixth form college* | *Other FE*[3] | *Total* | *WBL* | *Part-time education* | *Total education and WBL*[4] |
| Essex | 30 | 3 | 13 | 29 | 75 | 5 | 3 | 83 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 40 | 0 | 9 | 26 | 74 | 56 | 3 | 82 |
| Thurrock | 4 | 0 | 39 | 28 | 72 | 4 | 3 | 79 |

| | | | | | | | | *Number of 16-year olds* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained schools*[1] | *Independent schools*[2] | *Sixth form college* | *Other FE*[3] | *Total* | *WBL* | *Part-time education* | *Total education and WBL*[4] | *Population* |
| Essex | 5,300 | 400 | 2,300 | 5,000 | 13,000 | 900 | 600 | 14,500 | 17,400 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 800 | — | 200 | 500 | 1,500 | 100 | 100 | 1,600 | 2,000 |
| Thurrock | 100 | — | 800 | 500 | 1,400 | 100 | 100 | 1,500 | 1,900 |

*Table 2: Participation in education and training of 16 year olds by LEAs in Essex, 2004, full-time education*

| | | | | | | | *Percentage of 16-year olds* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained schools*[1] | *Independent schools*[2] | *Sixth form college* | *Other FE*[3] | *Total* | *WBL* | *Part-time education* | *Total education and WBL*[4] |
| Essex | 31 | 3 | 12 | 27 | 73 | 5 | 3 | 83 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 39 | 0 | 10 | 26 | 74 | 6 | 2 | 82 |
| Thurrock | 4 | 0 | 36 | 27 | 66 | 5 | 3 | 74 |

| | | | | | | | | *Number of 16-year olds* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Maintained schools*[1] | *Independent schools*[2] | *Sixth form college* | *Other FE*[3] | *Total* | *WBL* | *Part-time education* | *Total education and WBL*[4] | *Population* |
| Essex | 5,400 | 400 | 2,100 | 4,600 | 12,500 | 1,100 | 600 | 14,300 | 17,000 |
| Southend-on-Sea | 800 | — | 200 | 500 | 1,500 | 100 | — | 1,700 | 2,000 |
| Thurrock | 100 | — | 700 | 500 | 1,300 | 100 | 100 | 1,500 | 2,000 |

[1] Includes all pupils in maintained schools and maintained special schools.
[2] Includes all pupils in independent schools, non-maintained special schools, city technology colleges, academies and pupil referral units.
[3] Includes all learners in General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges (e.g. agriculture colleges).
[4] Total of all full-time and part-time education and WBL, less WBL provision in education institutions.

## Higher Education: EU Nationals

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students from EU accession countries have obtained places at London universities in each year since 2004. [168429]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

The latest available information is given in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

*Entrants to higher education institutions in London [1] from EU accession countries [2] by level of study Academic years 2003/04 to 2005/06*

| *Level of study* | *Academic year* | *Entrants from EU accession countries* |
|---|---|---|
| Postgraduate | 2003/04 | 495 |
| | 2004/05 | 885 |
| | 2005/06 | 1,090 |
| Undergraduate | 2003/04 | 500 |
| | 2004/05 | 1,455 |
| | 2005/06 | 1,885 |
| Total | 2003/04 | 995 |
| | 2004/05 | 2,335 |
| | 2005/06 | 2,975 |

[1] Includes all Higher Education Institutions in London Government Office Region.
[2] The 10 EU accession countries who joined the EU on the 1 May 2004 are—Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
Notes:
Numbers are on a HESA Standard Registration population basis, and have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Bulgaria and Romania also joined the EU in January 2007. This change will be shown in the 2006/07 figures.

**International Baccalaureate: Greater London**

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools and colleges in each London local authority offered international baccalaureates in the latest period for which figures are available. [168649]

**Jim Knight:** Currently, there are three maintained schools and colleges in London offering the international baccalaureate (IB). They are in Bexley, Enfield and Richmond upon Thames. A fourth local authority, Tower Hamlets, will have a school offering the IB from September 2008.

There are also independent schools in the following local authorities currently offering the IB: Barnet, Croydon, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Kensington and Chelsea, Lewisham, Merton and Westminster.

**Languages: GCE A-Level**

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students in post-16 full-time education were entered for A-level or equivalent examinations in *(a)* French, *(b)* German, *(c)* Spanish, *(d)* Mandarin Chinese, *(e)* Russian and *(f)* another modern foreign language in (i) Ribble Valley, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [167774]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The information required is as follows.

Figures for Ribble Valley are available at only disproportionate cost.

*Number of pupils taking GCE A levels in England and Lancashire in academic years 1997-98 to 2006-07*

*England*

| | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| French | 19,629 | 17,774 | 15,240 | 15,393 | 13,599 | 12,904 | 12,480 | 11,963 | 12,190 | 12,173 |
| German | 8,903 | 8,527 | 7,581 | 7,607 | 6,367 | 6,068 | 5,643 | 5,238 | 5,534 | 5,631 |
| Spanish | 4,499 | 4,640 | 4,516 | 501 | 4,430 | 4,504 | 4,650 | 4,930 | 5,202 | 5,502 |
| Chinese | 1,017 | 1,122 | 1,185 | 102 | 1,400 | 1,496 | 1,677 | 1,606 | 1,996 | 1,993 |
| Russian | 455 | 460 | 490 | 442 | 415 | 485 | 451 | 547 | 522 | 623 |
| Welsh (2nd language) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Dutch | 6 | 18 | 14 | 32 | 21 | 24 | 49 | 73 | 62 | 69 |
| Italian | 556 | 556 | 585 | 565 | 582 | 531 | 516 | 508 | 577 | 542 |
| Modern Greek | 153 | 107 | 112 | 87 | 110 | 77 | 93 | 96 | 71 | 86 |
| Portuguese | 96 | 108 | 118 | 88 | 125 | 102 | 115 | 131 | 141 | 166 |
| Arabic | 0 | 0 | 0 | 167 | 188 | 181 | 218 | 258 | 259 | 277 |
| Bengali | 86 | 42 | 41 | 41 | 37 | 23 | 28 | 44 | 38 | 38 |
| Gujarati | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 14 | 21 | 23 | 21 | 29 |
| Hindi | 15 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Japanese | 317 | 279 | 273 | 183 | 201 | 232 | 203 | 210 | 242 | 223 |
| Modern Hebrew | 27 | 24 | 21 | 14 | 26 | 36 | 34 | 34 | 51 | 50 |
| Panjabi | 139 | 89 | 118 | 108 | 50 | 83 | 75 | 96 | 134 | 94 |
| Polish | 79 | 84 | 86 | 49 | 68 | 66 | 85 | 92 | 115 | 143 |
| Turkish | 119 | 116 | 129 | 118 | 151 | 171 | 188 | 227 | 223 | 212 |
| Urdu | 390 | 485 | 484 | 413 | 395 | 392 | 443 | 469 | 478 | 420 |
| Persian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 71 | 86 | 83 | 120 | 154 | 147 |
| Total (other) | 1,983 | 1,915 | 1,981 | 1,865 | 2,046 | 2,018 | 2,151 | 2,381 | 2,566 | 2,497 |
| Total (all modern languages) | 36,486 | 34,438 | 30,993 | 30,910 | 28,257 | 27,475 | 27,052 | 26,665 | 28,010 | 28,419 |

*Lancashire*

| | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| French | 332 | 230 | 253 | 247 | 256 | 237 | 202 | 200 | 215 | 207 |
| German | 128 | 131 | 117 | 175 | 132 | 125 | 115 | 120 | 119 | 115 |
| Spanish | 82 | 65 | 76 | 94 | 79 | 77 | 62 | 82 | 99 | 97 |
| Chinese | 9 | 12 | 22 | 28 | 35 | 15 | 10 | 17 | 23 | 32 |
| Russian | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Dutch | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Italian | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 6 |
| Modern Greek | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Portuguese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Arabic | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Bengali | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Lancashire

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hindi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Japanese | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Modern Hebrew | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Panjabi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Polish | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Turkish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Urdu | 19 | 32 | 22 | 24 | 23 | 23 | 32 | 29 | 44 | 30 |
| Total (other) | 22 | 38 | 23 | 28 | 27 | 23 | 36 | 41 | 58 | 48 |
| Total (all modern languages) | 574 | 476 | 491 | 575 | 529 | 479 | 426 | 463 | 516 | 496 |

## Mathematics: GCE A-level

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase the number of students taking mathematics to A-level; and if he will make a statement. [163771]

**Jim Knight:** This year there were 53,416 entries for A-level mathematics (an increase of 3,611 since 2006) and 7,241 entries for A-level further mathematics (an increase of 725). The Government are committed to increasing the number of young people entered for A-level mathematics to 56,000 by 2014. They have put in place a strong programme of work to help achieve this which includes:

Developing innovative key stage 3 lesson materials to engage young people with mathematics, along with appropriate teacher support. The materials will be available to schools in April 2008 for use in classrooms from September;

Slimming down the national curriculum statutory programmes of study by expressing content in more general terms without losing breadth, depth, and challenge. This provides greater flexibility for schools and enables them to focus on key concepts. The new mathematics curriculum at key stages 3 and 4 will be introduced for first teaching from September 2008;

Developing through the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority a second mathematics GCSE aimed at students who wish to gain a deeper appreciation of mathematics. It will be additional to the existing mathematics GCSE and will be introduced for first teaching from 2010;

Producing a range of case studies which evidence school level factors associated with high levels of progression to post-16 mathematics;

Commissioning a programme of support and guidance aimed at increasing the number of young people continuing their study of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects post-16 by showing the wide range of careers available to those who study STEM subjects;

Commissioning a STEM communications campaign to inform pupils, parents and others of the wide ranging and existing opportunities that are open to students when they choose to study STEM subjects and qualifications up to and post-16;

Introducing new mathematics specifications for first teaching in September 2004. They make AS and A-level mathematics more flexible and manageable;

Funding a network of further mathematics centres to increase the number of young people taking further mathematics A-level;

Putting in place a number of measures to step up the recruitment, retention and retraining of mathematics teachers.

## Mathematics: General Certificate of Secondary Education

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will place in the Library sample course materials for the proposed new functional mathematics GCSE module involving note and coin recognition; [167648]

(2) how much the Government have incurred in developing the proposed new functional mathematics GCSE module involving note and coin recognition. [167649]

**Jim Knight:** The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is piloting new functional mathematics assessments at Entry Level to Level 2 for use both by young people and adults. These are being developed by awarding bodies to the functional skills standards, which have also been reflected in the new national Curriculum programmes of study at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. I shall place copies of the latest version of the functional mathematics standards in the House Library. The standards include financial literacy skills, which are vital to equipping people with the skills they need to operate in life and at work. The functional skills standards at Entry Level 1 include note and coin recognition. Entry Level 1 is of comparable standard to National Curriculum Level 1—the study done during Key Stage 1—and is being designed to be suitable for those needing to develop very basic mathematics skills.

## Music: Finance

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 420W, on music: finance, how many local education authorities supplemented their music standards fund grants with additional spending in the last 12 months. [168987]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information is contained in the following table.

*Planned net expenditure on music services (not standards fund supported)[1] by local authorities in England, 2007-08[2]*

| Local authority name | Music service (not standards fund supported)[1, 2, 3] (£) |
|---|---|
| England | 29,790,000 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 484,000 |
| Barnet | 0 |

*Planned net expenditure on music services (not standards fund supported)[1] by local authorities in England, 2007-08[2]*

| *Local authority name* | *Music service (not standards fund supported)[1, 2, 3] (£)* |
|---|---|
| Barnsley | 253,000 |
| Bath and North East Somerset | 92,000 |
| Bedfordshire | 835,000 |
| Bexley | 182,000 |
| Birmingham | 313,000 |
| Blackburn and Darwen | 0 |
| Blackpool | 0 |
| Bolton | 80,000 |
| Bournemouth | 74,000 |
| Bracknell Forest | 37,000 |
| Bradford | 0 |
| Brent | 101,000 |
| Brighton and Hove | 399,000 |
| Bromley | 446,000 |
| Buckinghamshire | 467,000 |
| Bury | 0 |
| Calderdale | 125,000 |
| Cambridgeshire | 151,000 |
| Camden | 125,000 |
| Cheshire | 242,000 |
| City of Bristol | 86,000 |
| City of Kingston-upon-Hull | 462,000 |
| City of London | 50,000 |
| Cornwall | 254,000 |
| Coventry | 792,000 |
| Croydon | 250,000 |
| Cumbria | 74,000 |
| Darlington | 122,000 |
| Derby | 11,000 |
| Derbyshire | 89,000 |
| Devon | 76,000 |
| Doncaster | 118,000 |
| Dorset | 187,000 |
| Dudley | 997,000 |
| Durham | 410,000 |
| Ealing | 0 |
| East Riding of Yorkshire | 395,000 |
| East Sussex | 219,000 |
| Enfield | 390,000 |
| Essex | 805,000 |
| Gateshead | 67,000 |
| Gloucestershire | 60,000 |
| Greenwich | 67,000 |
| Hackney | 101,000 |
| Halton | 0 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 0 |
| Hampshire | 779,000 |
| Haringey | 153,000 |
| Harrow | 340,000 |
| Hartlepool | 0 |
| Havering | 241,000 |
| Herefordshire | 0 |
| Hertfordshire | 1,486,000 |
| Hillingdon | 429,000 |
| Hounslow | 60,000 |
| Isle of Wight | 137,000 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0 |
| Islington | 0 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 29,000 |
| Kent | 414,000 |

*Planned net expenditure on music services (not standards fund supported)[1] by local authorities in England, 2007-08[2]*

| *Local authority name* | *Music service (not standards fund supported)[1, 2, 3] (£)* |
|---|---|
| Kingston upon Thames | 134,000 |
| Kirklees | 0 |
| Knowsley | 249,000 |
| Lambeth | 0 |
| Lancashire | 35,000 |
| Leeds | 612,000 |
| Leicester | 0 |
| Leicestershire | 0 |
| Lewisham | 101,000 |
| Lincolnshire | 638,000 |
| Liverpool | (129,000) |
| Luton | 214,000 |
| Manchester | 0 |
| Medway | 0 |
| Merton | 70,000 |
| Middlesbrough | 0 |
| Milton Keynes | 510,000 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 12,000 |
| Newham | 0 |
| Norfolk | 151,000 |
| North East Lincolnshire | 0 |
| North Lincolnshire | 20,000 |
| North Somerset | 103,000 |
| North Tyneside | 0 |
| North Yorkshire | 553,000 |
| Northamptonshire | 254,000 |
| Northumberland | 0 |
| Nottingham City | 11,000 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,247,000 |
| Oldham | 185,000 |
| Oxfordshire | 988,000 |
| Peterborough | 0 |
| Plymouth | 0 |
| Poole | 52,000 |
| Portsmouth | 27,000 |
| Reading | 0 |
| Redbridge | 867,000 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 0 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 98,000 |
| Rochdale | 175,000 |
| Rotherham | 0 |
| Rutland | 0 |
| Salford | 577,000 |
| Sandwell | 554,000 |
| Sefton | 290,000 |
| Sheffield | 232,000 |
| Shropshire | 269,000 |
| Slough | 0 |
| Solihull | 456,000 |
| Somerset | 49,000 |
| South Gloucestershire | 5,000 |
| South Tyneside | 117,000 |
| Southampton | 603,000 |
| Southend | 0 |
| Southwark | 0 |
| St. Helens | 0 |
| Staffordshire | 200,000 |
| Stockport | 4,000 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 113,000 |
| Stoke on Trent | 183,000 |

*Planned net expenditure on music services (not standards fund supported)[1] by local authorities in England, 2007-08[2]*

| *Local authority name* | *Music service (not standards fund supported)[1, 2, 3] (£)* |
|---|---|
| Suffolk | 360,000 |
| Sunderland | 59,000 |
| Surrey | 223,000 |
| Sutton | 56,000 |
| Swindon | 3,000 |
| Tameside | 0 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 49,000 |
| Thurrock | 70,000 |
| Torbay | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 0 |
| Trafford | 229,000 |
| Wakefield | 127,000 |
| Walsall | 357,000 |
| Waltham Forest | 246,000 |
| Wandsworth | 0 |
| Warrington | 0 |
| Warwickshire | 1,307,000 |
| West Berkshire | 0 |
| West Sussex | 475,000 |
| Westminster | 0 |
| Wigan | 0 |
| Wiltshire | 0 |
| Windsor and Maidenhead | 48,000 |
| Wirral | 163,000 |
| Wokingham | 58,000 |
| Wolverhampton | 92,000 |
| Worcestershire | 295,000 |
| York | 189,000 |

[1] Includes planned expenditure (not standards fund supported) on the provision of music tuition or other activities which provide opportunities for pupils to enhance their experience of music. This is drawn from local authorities' 2007-08 section 52 Budget Statements (Table 1 line 2.4.11) submitted to the DCSF (formally DfES).
[2] 2007-08 figures are subject to change by the local authority.
[3] Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and may not sum due to rounding.
*Note:*
Cash term figures as reported by local authorities as at 26 November 2007.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of the annual budget for the music standards fund was allocated for *(a)* instrumental and *(b)* voice tuition in each of the last five years. [169016]

**Jim Knight:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of the annual budget for the music standards fund was *(a)* devolved to schools and *(b)* given to local authority music services in the latest period for which figures are available. [169017]

**Jim Knight:** Since 2006 the Music Standards Fund has comprised two elements. First the baseline grant to local authorities of £59 million to enhance opportunities for pupils to access high quality music education, with a priority on instrumental and vocal opportunities at Key Stage 2. Second local authorities received a new allocation through the Music Standards Fund grant, of £3million in 2006-07 and £23 million in 2007-08, to be devolved to schools serving Key Stage 2 pupils. This allocation allows primary and special schools themselves to begin buying in instrumental and vocal tuition at Key Stage 2, either from the Local Authority Music Service or from other local providers. We understand that in many local authorities schools have decided to buy in support from their local music service. In each of the years from 2008-09 to 2010-11 the whole £82 million available will go to local authorities to support the new music education ambitions set out on 21 November. However, they will be expected to secure the agreement of the School Forums as to its precise use.

## National Evaluation of Children's Trusts

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the National Evaluation of Children's Trusts commissioned by his Department. [169156]

**Beverley Hughes:** The "National Evaluation of Children's Trust Pathfinders Final Report"; was published in March 2007 and can be found at:
http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/nect/

## Ofsted

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether Ofsted is up-to-date with its planned cycle of inspections; and if he will make a statement. [163189]

**Jim Knight:** This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 20 November 2007:*

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response. I shall cover each area of Ofsted's remit in turn.

*1. Early Years*

Current regulations for the inspection of childcare and funded nursery education were introduced in October 2005 and stipulate that the present prescribed cycle will run until 31 August 2009. However, Ofsted has given a commitment that these inspections will be carried out by the end of March 2008. Of the 101,614 providers, 21,081 remain to be inspected. It will be a significant challenge for Ofsted to complete all of these by the end of March 2008, but we are optimistic that we can do this. This will be over a year ahead of the prescribed cycle and will enable us to start inspecting the new Early Years Foundation Stage from its inception in September 2008, on a new prescribed cycle agreed with Government.

*2. Maintained schools*

Under the current inspection framework for maintained schools, the Education (School Inspection) (England) Regulations 2005 stipulate that all maintained schools should be inspected between 1 September 2005 and 1 August 2009; and thereafter, they should be inspected within three school years from the end of the school year in which the last inspection took place. There are nearly 23,000 maintained schools in England. In 2005-06, 6,128 schools were inspected and in 2006-07 8,323 schools were inspected. Ofsted is therefore on target to complete inspections within the time limit prescribed by the regulations.

*3. Colleges of further education*

Ofsted commenced a second four-year cycle of inspections of further education colleges in September 2005. Ofsted is on course to complete this cycle of inspections by August 2009.

*4. Non-association independent schools*

Ofsted is up to date with its inspections of non-association independent schools. By April 2008 it will have completed the first cycle of inspections in these schools and will have completed 455 inspections during this financial year.

*5. Joint area reviews of local services for children*

Under the Framework for the inspection of children's services, a joint area review of each local authority area will be carried out between September 2005 and December 2008. The scope of joint area reviews includes services for children and young people aged 0-19 years inclusive, whether provided by statutory, voluntary or private providers. There are 150 local authority areas in England. In 2005-06 fieldwork for 28 joint area reviews was completed; in 2006-07 fieldwork for 49 was completed; in 2007-08 fieldwork for 41 joint area reviews is scheduled to take place; and in 2008-09 fieldwork for 32 is scheduled. Ofsted is therefore on target to complete all joint area reviews within the time limit specified in the framework

*6. Secure settings for young people*

The 2007-08 programme for the inspection of secure children's homes and secure training centres is on schedule to be completed as planned.

Young offender institutions and immigration removal centres are inspected by Ofsted in partnership with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP). Ofsted works in partnership with HMIP and inspects in line with their schedule. The 2007-08 programme is on schedule to be completed as planned.

*7. Initial teacher education*

The current initial teacher training inspection (primary and secondary provision) framework and the three year formal service agreement between Ofsted and the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) stipulate that all providers of initial teacher training should be inspected at least once between 1 September 2005 and 31 July 2008. There are 192 providers of initial teacher training in England. In 2005-06, 54 were inspected; in 2006-07, 73 were inspected; in 2007-08 Ofsted is scheduled to inspect the remaining 70 providers. Ofsted is therefore on target (192 scheduled inspections, three re-inspections, one early inspection on behalf of the TDA and one inspection spread over two years) to complete the inspection of initial teacher training within the agreed time limit for the current initial teacher training Framework.

The current framework for the inspection of further education teacher training stipulates that all providers of further education teacher training should be inspected at least once between 1 September 2004 and 31 July 2008. There are 58 higher education institutions providing further education teacher training in England; in 2004-05 13 were inspected; in 2005-06 12 were inspected; in 2006-07 12 were inspected; in 2007-08 Ofsted is scheduled to inspect 17. Four higher education institutions providing initial teacher training had their inspections deferred according to the agreed deferral criteria and will be inspected early in the next inspection cycle. Ofsted is therefore on target to complete the inspection of further education teacher training within the agreed time limit for the current Framework.

*8. Children's social care*

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Children's Homes etc) Regulations 2007 set out the required frequency of inspection for each type of social care. The variety in the frequency of inspection stipulated makes reporting upon progress complex. However, as at 30 September 2007, Ofsted has 3,707 active institutions to inspect. (Registered children's home must have two inspections during every 12 month period). Since April 1,673 inspections have been completed. We are confident that, although the timescale is demanding, Ofsted remains on target to complete each inspection cycle.

*9. Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)*

There is no cycle of inspections of CAFCASS. Instead, there is an annual programme of inspection of CAFCASS which focuses on issues of priority and risk. The 2007-08 programme is on schedule to be completed as planned.

*10. Adult learning*

Ofsted is up to date with its cycles of inspection of adult learning and on course to complete them on time. The four-year cycle of work based learning should be complete by summer 2009; that for step provision by April 2009; that for adult and community learning by summer 2010 and that for learndirect by November 2010. Ofsted is also on course to complete the various cycles of inspections of Department of Work and Pensions training providers within the planned timescales.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

## Parents: Information Services

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of local authorities' progress in preparing for the new duty under the Childcare Act 2006 of providing a comprehensive information service for all parents; and if he will make a statement. [164031]

**Beverley Hughes:** It is for local authorities to review performance and development of current and future delivery arrangements for information services in their area, under the strategic lead of their Children's Trusts. Although no formal assessment of progress has been carried out by the Department. I am aware that many local information services have responded positively to the prospect of the broadened duty and are already providing more information than is currently required. We undertook a formal consultation with all authorities and CISs last year, and have had ongoing feedback through regular official level contact with information services and others.

## Pupil Exclusions: Special Educational Needs

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of fixed period exclusions were given to pupils *(a)* with special educational needs and *(b)* entitled to free school meals in (i) secondary schools and (ii) primary schools in each year since 1997. [167779]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time for the academic year 2003/04. The available information relating to the number of fixed period exclusions by special educational needs is given in the table.

A free school meal indicator is not directly collected for excluded pupils. The requested information could be produced by linking with other data sources, but this could be done only at disproportionate costs.

*Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of fixed period exclusions by special educational needs 2003/04 to 2004/05[2, 3] England*

| | Maintained primary schools | | Maintained secondary schools | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of exclusions | Percentage of school population[4] | Number of exclusions | Percentage of school population[4] |
| *2003/04[2]* | | | | |
| Pupils with statements of SEN | 5,610 | 8.1 | 20,430 | 26.0 |

*Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of fixed period exclusions by special educational needs 2003/04 to 2004/05[2, 3] England*

| | Maintained primary schools | | Maintained secondary schools | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of exclusions* | *Percentage of school population[4]* | *Number of exclusions* | *Percentage of school population[4]* |
| Pupils without statements of SEN[5] | 35,690 | 0.9 | 267,600 | 8.2 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| SEN pupils without statements | 23,490 | 3.4 | 109,410 | 24.3 |
| Pupils with no SEN | 12,200 | 0.3 | 158,190 | 5.7 |
| All pupils[6] | 41,290 | 1.0 | 288,050 | 8.7 |
| *2004/05[2]* | | | | |
| Pupils with statements of SEN | 5,730 | 8.5 | 21,980 | 28.7 |
| Pupils without statements of SEN[5] | 37,990 | 0.9 | 307,700 | 9.5 |
| *Of which* | | | | |
| SEN pupils without statements | 24,860 | 3.6 | 124,980 | 26.4 |
| Pupils with no SEN | 13,130 | 0.4 | 182,710 | 6.6 |
| All pupils[7] | 43,720 | 1.0 | 329,680 | 9.9 |
| *2005/06[3]* | | | | |
| Pupils with statements of SEN | n/a | n/a | 23,300 | 31.6 |
| Pupils without statements of SEN[5] | n/a | n/a | 320,490 | 9.9 |
| *Of which:* | | | | |
| SEN pupils without statements | n/a | n/a | 164,450 | 32.5 |
| Pupils with no SEN | n/a | n/a | 156,030 | 5.7 |
| All pupils[8] | n/a | n/a | 343,840 | 10.4 |

n/a = Not available.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] In 2003/04, information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time via the Termly Exclusions Survey.
[3] For the 2005/06 school year, information on fixed period exclusions was collected via the School Census for the first time (the Termly Exclusions Survey has discontinued). For exclusions during 2006/07, information on fixed period exclusions will also be collected from primary and special schools. See Notes to Editors 2.
[4] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year.
[5] Includes pupils with no identified SEN and those pupils with SEN without statements.
[6] Totals include 12 fixed period exclusions with unclassified SEN provision.
[7] Totals include 2 fixed period exclusions with unclassified SEN provision.
[8] Totals include 48 fixed period exclusions with unclassified SEN provision.
*Note:*
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
Termly Exclusion Survey and School Census.

## Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Expenditure

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what total expenditure has been incurred by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in each *(a)* month and *(b)* quarter since April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [163538]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is set out in the following table:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| April | 7.7 |
| May | 11.6 |
| June | 14.6 |
| Quarter 1 | 33.9 |
| July | 11.8 |
| August | 19.7 |
| September | 17.9 |
| Quarter 2 | 49.4 |
| October | 9.4 |

## School Meals

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance has been provided to schools on implementing school nutrient analysis; [169572]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the achievability of the school nutrition standards iron target. [169573]

**Kevin Brennan:** The School Food Trust (SFT) will shortly be publishing 'A guide to introducing the Government's food-based and nutrient-based standards for school lunches'. It will be available on the SFT website in early December, and hard copies will be distributed to stakeholders including schools, local authorities and catering providers. The guide will explain the standards and give advice on implementing and monitoring them.

The SFT has also published independent reviews of menu planning and nutrient analysis software to help providers consider how to demonstrate compliance with the nutrient-based standards. This information is available on their website at:

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/content.asp?Contentid=487

The SFT has assessed the achievability of all the nutrient-based standards including the iron target in primary schools by conducting three pilot studies in March. All achieved the standards including the iron target with slight modifications to lunchtime provision. Details of these pilots will be published in the guide. Similar pilots in 12 secondary schools are currently being run; the results will be published next year.

## School: Sports

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to raise awareness among teachers of the effects of Marfan syndrome on performance in sports. [169341]

**Kevin Brennan:** Any identified need to raise teachers' awareness of sporting provision for pupils with Marfan syndrome is met by the physical education and school sport professional development programme. The programme is part of the national school sports strategy and is free for teachers in all local authority areas.

## Schools

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* primary schools there are in each local authority in England. [167870]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is shown in the following tables. This table can also be found as additional information to Statistical First Release 30/2007 'Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final)', which is available via the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

*Table 11: All Schools—Number of schools by type of school, by local authority area and Government office region in England, January 2007*

| | | Nursery | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *LEA Mntd* | *Direct Grant* | *Total* | *Primary* | *Of which middle deemed* | *Secondary* | *Of which middle deemed* |
| | *England* | 446 | 2 | 448 | 17,361 | 86 | 3,343 | 248 |
| | *North East* | 37 | 0 | 37 | 918 | 0 | 205 | 50 |
| 841 | Darlington | 2 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| 840 | Durham | 12 | 0 | 12 | 236 | 0 | 36 | 0 |
| 390 | Gateshead | 1 | 0 | 1 | 73 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 805 | Hartlepool | 1 | 0 | 1 | 30 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 806 | Middlesbrough | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 391 | Newcastle upon Tyne | 6 | 0 | 6 | 72 | 0 | 14 | 3 |
| 392 | North Tyneside | 1 | 0 | 1 | 56 | 0 | 15 | 4 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 1 | 0 | 1 | 138 | 0 | 58 | 43 |
| 807 | Redcar and Cleveland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| 393 | South Tyneside | 4 | 0 | 4 | 51 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 808 | Stockton-on-Tees | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 394 | Sunderland | 9 | 0 | 9 | 83 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| | *North West* | 82 | 0 | 82 | 2,554 | 0 | 467 | 0 |
| 889 | Blackburn with Darwen | 9 | 0 | 9 | 56 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 890 | Blackpool | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| 350 | Bolton | 4 | 0 | 4 | 98 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 351 | Bury | 1 | 0 | 1 | 63 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 875 | Cheshire | 2 | 0 | 2 | 275 | 0 | 43 | 0 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 6 | 0 | 6 | 279 | 0 | 42 | 0 |
| 876 | Halton | 4 | 0 | 4 | 52 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| 340 | Knowsley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 888 | Lancashire | 25 | 0 | 25 | 486 | 0 | 85 | 0 |
| 341 | Liverpool | 5 | 0 | 5 | 135 | 0 | 29 | 0 |
| 352 | Manchester | 2 | 0 | 2 | 133 | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| 353 | Oldham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 94 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 354 | Rochdale | 4 | 0 | 4 | 71 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 355 | Salford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 83 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 343 | Sefton | 4 | 0 | 4 | 78 | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| 342 | St. Helens | 1 | 0 | 1 | 54 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 356 | Stockport | 9 | 0 | 9 | 92 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 357 | Tameside | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 358 | Trafford | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 877 | Warrington | 1 | 0 | 1 | 71 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 359 | Wigan | 2 | 0 | 2 | 105 | 0 | 21 | 0 |
| 344 | Wirral | 3 | 0 | 3 | 98 | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| | *Yorkshire and The Humber* | 34 | 0 | 34 | 1,872 | 0 | 318 | 9 |
| 370 | Barnsley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| 380 | Bradford | 7 | 0 | 7 | 158 | 0 | 28 | 0 |
| 381 | Calderdale | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 371 | Doncaster | 0 | 0 | 0 | 103 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 811 | East Riding of Yorkshire | 4 | 0 | 4 | 132 | 0 | 18 | 0 |

*Table 11: All Schools—Number of schools by type of school, by local authority area and Government office region in England, January 2007*

| | | Nursery | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *LEA Mntd* | *Direct Grant* | *Total* | *Primary* | *Of which middle deemed* | *Secondary* | *Of which middle deemed* |
| 810 | Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 3 | 0 | 3 | 71 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 382 | Kirklees | 3 | 0 | 3 | 151 | 0 | 32 | 7 |
| 383 | Leeds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 222 | 0 | 38 | 0 |
| 812 | North East Lincolnshire | 3 | 0 | 3 | 59 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 813 | North Lincolnshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 3 | 0 | 3 | 326 | 0 | 47 | 2 |
| 372 | Rotherham | 3 | 0 | 3 | 103 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 373 | Sheffield | 4 | 0 | 4 | 136 | 0 | 25 | 0 |
| 384 | Wakefield | 3 | 0 | 3 | 124 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 816 | York | 1 | 0 | 1 | 54 | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| | *East Midlands* | 36 | 0 | 36 | 1,696 | 0 | 299 | 11 |
| 831 | Derby | 8 | 0 | 8 | 78 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 8 | 0 | 8 | 358 | 0 | 47 | 0 |
| 856 | Leicester | 0 | 0 | 0 | 84 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 1 | 0 | 1 | 225 | 0 | 54 | 9 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 5 | 0 | 5 | 285 | 0 | 63 | 0 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 9 | 0 | 9 | 265 | 0 | 39 | 2 |
| 892 | Nottingham | 3 | 0 | 3 | 92 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire | 2 | 0 | 2 | 292 | 0 | 47 | 0 |
| 857 | Rutland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| | *West Midlands* | 66 | 2 | 68 | 1,829 | 4 | 410 | 42 |
| 330 | Birmingham | 25 | 2 | 27 | 299 | 0 | 76 | 0 |
| 331 | Coventry | 1 | 0 | 1 | 85 | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| 332 | Dudley | 1 | 0 | 1 | 78 | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| 684 | Herefordshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 333 | Sandwell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 96 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| 893 | Shropshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 142 | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| 334 | Solihull | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 6 | 0 | 6 | 301 | 0 | 68 | 14 |
| 861 | Stoke-on-Trent | 7 | 0 | 7 | 71 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| 894 | Telford and Wrekin | 2 | 0 | 2 | 57 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| 335 | Walsall | 8 | 0 | 8 | 86 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 8 | 0 | 8 | 196 | 0 | 37 | 0 |
| 336 | Wolverhampton | 7 | 0 | 7 | 80 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 885 | Worcestershire | 1 | 0 | 1 | 189 | 4 | 57 | 28 |
| | *East of England* | 41 | 0 | 41 | 2,059 | 47 | 425 | 86 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 7 | 0 | 7 | 146 | 0 | 56 | 39 |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire | 6 | 0 | 6 | 201 | 0 | 30 | 1 |
| 881 | Essex | 2 | 0 | 2 | 473 | 0 | 80 | 0 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 15 | 0 | 15 | 407 | 0 | 82 | 6 |
| 821 | Luton | 6 | 0 | 6 | 54 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 3 | 0 | 3 | 384 | 47 | 52 | 0 |
| 874 | Peterborough | 1 | 0 | 1 | 58 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 882 | Southend-on-Sea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 1 | 0 | 1 | 256 | 0 | 78 | 40 |
| 883 | Thurrock | 0 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| | | | 0 | | | | | |
| | *London* | 82 | 0 | 82 | 1,823 | 17 | 395 | 0 |
| | *Inner London* | 50 | 0 | 50 | 895 | 0 | 128 | 0 |
| 202 | Camden | 1 | 0 | 1 | 41 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| 203 | City of London | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 204 | Hackney | 2 | 0 | 2 | 53 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| 205 | Hammersmith and Fulham | 4 | 0 | 4 | 35 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| 309 | Haringey | 3 | 0 | 3 | 63 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 206 | Islington | 3 | 0 | 3 | 45 | 0 | 9 | 0 |

*Table 11: All Schools—Number of schools by type of school, by local authority area and Government office region in England, January 2007*

| | | Nursery | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *LEA Mntd* | *Direct Grant* | *Total* | *Primary* | *Of which middle deemed* | *Secondary* | *Of which middle deemed* |
| 207 | Kensington and Chelsea | 4 | 0 | 4 | 26 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 208 | Lambeth | 5 | 0 | 5 | 50 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 209 | Lewisham | 2 | 0 | 2 | 69 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 216 | Newham | 8 | 0 | 8 | 66 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 210 | Southwark | 5 | 0 | 5 | 71 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 211 | Tower Hamlets | 6 | 0 | 6 | 69 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 212 | Wandsworth | 3 | 0 | 3 | 56 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 213 | Westminster | 4 | 0 | 4 | 67 | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| | *Outer London* | 32 | 0 | 32 | 1,128 | 17 | 267 | 0 |
| 101 | Barking and Dagenham | 0 | 0 | 0 | 49 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| 102 | Barnet | 4 | 0 | 4 | 67 | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| 303 | Bexley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 304 | Brent | 4 | 0 | 4 | 59 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| 305 | Bromley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 77 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 306 | Croydon | 6 | 0 | 6 | 91 | 0 | 21 | 0 |
| 307 | Ealing | 4 | 0 | 4 | 64 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 308 | Enfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| 203 | Greenwich | 4 | 0 | 4 | 64 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| 310 | Harrow | 1 | 0 | 1 | 54 | 17 | 10 | 0 |
| 311 | Havering | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 312 | Hillingdon | 1 | 0 | 1 | 65 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 313 | Hounslow | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 314 | Kingston upon Thames | 1 | 0 | 1 | 36 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 315 | Merton | 0 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 317 | Redbridge | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| 318 | Richmond upon Thames | 1 | 0 | 1 | 41 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| 319 | Sutton | 2 | 0 | 2 | 41 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 320 | Waltham Forest | 4 | 0 | 4 | 57 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| | *South East* | 49 | 0 | 49 | 2,670 | 11 | 502 | 26 |
| 867 | Bracknell Forest | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 846 | Brighton and Hove | 2 | 0 | 2 | 56 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 2 | 0 | 2 | 184 | 0 | 34 | 0 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 0 | 0 | 0 | 156 | 0 | 27 | 0 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 3 | 0 | 3 | 430 | 0 | 71 | 0 |
| 921 | Isle of Wight | 0 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 0 | 21 | 16 |
| 886 | Kent | 1 | 0 | 1 | 466 | 0 | 103 | 3 |
| 887 | Medway | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85 | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| 826 | Milton Keynes | 2 | 0 | 2 | 90 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 12 | 0 | 12 | 233 | 0 | 34 | 0 |
| 851 | Portsmouth | 1 | 0 | 1 | 53 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 870 | Reading | 5 | 0 | 5 | 37 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 871 | Slough | 5 | 0 | 5 | 27 | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| 852 | Southampton | 1 | 0 | 1 | 61 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 936 | Surrey | 4 | 0 | 4 | 314 | 0 | 53 | 0 |
| 869 | West Berkshire | 2 | 0 | 2 | 66 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 4 | 0 | 4 | 240 | 11 | 40 | 3 |
| 868 | Windsor and Maidenhead | 4 | 0 | 4 | 45 | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| 872 | Wokingham | 1 | 0 | 1 | 51 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| | *South West* | 19 | 0 | 19 | 1,940 | 7 | 322 | 24 |
| 800 | Bath and North East Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| 837 | Bournemouth | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 801 | Bristol, City of | 13 | 0 | 13 | 111 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 2 | 0 | 2 | 238 | 0 | 31 | 0 |
| 878 | Devon | 2 | 0 | 2 | 318 | 0 | 37 | 0 |
| 835 | Dorset | 0 | 0 | 0 | 136 | 0 | 34 | 14 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 | 0 | 42 | 0 |
| 420 | Isles of Scilly | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Table 11: All Schools—Number of schools by type of school, by local authority area and Government office region in England, January 2007*

| | | Nursery | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *LEA Mntd* | *Direct Grant* | *Total* | *Primary* | *Of which middle deemed* | *Secondary* | *Of which middle deemed* |
| 802 | North Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 879 | Plymouth | 2 | 0 | 2 | 76 | 9 | 17 | 0 |
| 836 | Poole | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 7 | 9 | 1 |
| 933 | Somerset | 0 | 0 | 0 | 223 | 0 | 39 | 9 |
| 803 | South Gloucestershire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 96 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 856 | Swindon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 880 | Torbay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 208 | 0 | 29 | 0 |

| | | Special | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *LEA Mntd* | *Non-Mntd* | *Total* | *Pupil Referral Units* | *Independent* | *City Technology Colleges* | *Academies* | *All Schools* |
| | *England* | 1,006 | 72 | 1,078 | 448 | 2,284 | 10 | 46 | 25,018 |
| | *North East* | 61 | 4 | 65 | 17 | 36 | 1 | 3 | 1,282 |
| 841 | Darlington | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| 840 | Durham | 10 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 299 |
| 390 | Gateshead | 6 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 96 |
| 805 | Hartlepool | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 |
| 806 | Middlesbrough | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 | ? | 60 |
| 391 | Newcastle upon Tyne | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 109 |
| 392 | North Tyneside | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 83 |
| 929 | Northumberland | 8 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 211 |
| 807 | Redcar and Cleveland | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| 393 | South Tyneside | 6 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72 |
| 808 | Stockton-on-Tees | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 86 |
| 394 | Sunderland | 7 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 122 |
| | *North West* | 167 | 13 | 180 | 64 | 259 | 0 | 4 | 3,610 |
| 889 | Blackburn with Darwen | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 91 |
| 890 | Blackpool | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 46 |
| 350 | Bolton | 6 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 141 |
| 351 | Bury | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 92 |
| 875 | Cheshire | 14 | 3 | 17 | 1 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 366 |
| 909 | Cumbria | 5 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 356 |
| 876 | Halton | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 73 |
| 340 | Knowsley | 7 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 74 |
| 888 | Lancashire | 32 | 0 | 32 | 13 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 690 |
| 341 | Liverpool | 13 | 12 | 15 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 198 |
| 352 | Manchester | 14 | 0 | 14 | 3 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 196 |
| 353 | Oldham | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 120 |
| 354 | Rochdale | 6 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 119 |
| 385 | Salford | 5 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 121 |
| 343 | Sefton | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 120 |
| 342 | St. Helens | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 74 |
| 356 | Stockport | 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 140 |
| 357 | Tameside | 5 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 105 |
| 358 | Trafford | 6 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 112 |
| 877 | Warrington | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 92 |
| 359 | Wigan | 8 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 139 |
| 344 | Wirral | 12 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 145 |
| | *Yorkshire and The Humber* | 85 | 6 | 91 | 44 | 141 | 0 | 6 | 2,506 |
| 370 | Barnsley | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 101 |
| 380 | Bradford | 11 | 0 | 11 | 5 | 18 | 0 | 1 | 228 |
| 381 | Calderdale | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 115 |
| 371 | Doncaster | 7 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 138 |

| | | Special | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | LEA Mntd | Non-Mntd | Total | Pupil Referral Units | Independent | City Technology Colleges | Academies | All Schools |
| 811 | East Riding of Yorkshire | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 166 |
| 810 | Kingston Upon Hull, City of | 6 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 104 |
| 382 | Kirklees | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 211 |
| 383 | Leeds | 6 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 286 |
| 812 | North East Lincolnshire | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 81 |
| 813 | North Lincolnshire | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 88 |
| 815 | North Yorkshire | 11 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 419 |
| 372 | Rotherham | 7 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 135 |
| 373 | Sheffield | 12 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 293 |
| 384 | Wakefield | 6 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 165 |
| 816 | York | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 76 |
| | *East Midlands* | 81 | 3 | 84 | 26 | 149 | 1 | 3 | 2,294 |
| 831 | Derby | 5 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 115 |
| 830 | Derbyshire | 10 | 0 | 10 | 8 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 452 |
| 856 | Leicester | 8 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 125 |
| 855 | Leicestershire | 6 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 304 |
| 925 | Lincolnshire | 21 | 0 | 21 | 5 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 402 |
| 928 | Northamptonshire | 13 | 0 | 13 | 4 | 23 | 1 | 1 | 355 |
| 892 | Nottingham | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 136 |
| 891 | Nottinghamshire | 11 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 379 |
| 857 | Rutland | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| | *West Midlands* | 123 | 2 | 125 | 54 | 194 | 2 | 3 | 2,675 |
| 330 | Birmingham | 27 | 0 | 27 | 4 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 470 |
| 331 | Coventry | 9 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 131 |
| 332 | Dudley | 7 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 116 |
| 684 | Herefordshire | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 115 |
| 333 | Sandwell | 4 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 123 |
| 893 | Shropshire | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 198 |
| 334 | Solihull | 5 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 94 |
| 860 | Staffordshire | 23 | 0 | 23 | 6 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 425 |
| 861 | Stoke-on-Trent | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 105 |
| 894 | Telford and Wrekin | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 87 |
| 335 | Walsall | 6 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 129 |
| 937 | Warwickshire | 9 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 270 |
| 336 | Wolverhampton | 7 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 121 |
| 885 | Worcestershire | 11 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 291 |
| | *East of England* | 93 | 2 | 97 | 43 | 232 | 0 | 1 | 2,899 |
| 820 | Bedfordshire | 10 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 236 |
| 873 | Cambridgeshire | 7 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 281 |
| 881 | Essex | 19 | 1 | 20 | 7 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 627 |
| 919 | Hertfordshire | 25 | 1 | 26 | 8 | 58 | 0 | 0 | 596 |
| 821 | Luton | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 86 |
| 926 | Norfolk | 12 | 0 | 12 | 5 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 488 |
| 874 | Peterborough | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 79 |
| 882 | Southend-on-Sea | 5 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 63 |
| 935 | Suffolk | 9 | 0 | 9 | 13 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 387 |
| 883 | Thurrock | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 56 |
| | *London* | 144 | 4 | 148 | 78 | 489 | 4 | 23 | 3,042 |
| | *Inner London* | 64 | 0 | 64 | 37 | 239 | 2 | 13 | 1,228 |
| 202 | Camden | 6 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 91 |
| 203 | City of London | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 204 | Hackney | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 0 | 2 | 98 |

| | | Special | | | Pupil Referral Units | Independent | City Technology Colleges | Academies | All Schools |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | LEA Mntd | Non-Mntd | Total | | | | | |
| 205 | Hammersmith and Fulham | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 75 |
| 309 | Haringey | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 97 |
| 206 | Islington | 3 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 73 |
| 207 | Kensington and Chelsea | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 75 |
| 208 | Lambeth | 5 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 96 |
| 209 | Lewisham | 6 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 100 |
| 216 | Newham | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 210 | Southwark | 9 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 113 |
| 211 | Tower Hamlets | 7 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 108 |
| 212 | Wandsworth | 9 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 29 | 1 | 0 | 111 |
| 213 | Westminster | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 27 | 0 | 2 | 85 |
| | *Outer London* | 80 | 4 | 84 | 41 | 250 | 2 | 10 | 1,814 |
| 101 | Barking and Dagenham | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 62 |
| 102 | Barnet | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 34 | 0 | 1 | 162 |
| 303 | Bexley | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 87 |
| 304 | Brent | 5 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 98 |
| 305 | Bromley | 5 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 115 |
| 306 | Croydon | 6 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 30 | 2 | 0 | 162 |
| 307 | Ealing | 6 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 108 |
| 308 | Enfield | 6 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| 203 | Greenwich | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 98 |
| 310 | Harrow | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 85 |
| 311 | Havering | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 97 |
| 312 | Hillingdon | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 101 |
| 313 | Hounslow | 5 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 91 |
| 314 | Kingston upon Thames | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 64 |
| 315 | Merton | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 66 |
| 317 | Redbridge | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 91 |
| 318 | Richmond upon Thames | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 75 |
| 319 | Sutton | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 71 |
| 320 | Waltham Forest | 5 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 91 |
| | *South East* | 164 | 30 | 194 | 66 | 554 | 1 | 2 | 4,038 |
| 867 | Bracknell Forest | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 45 |
| 846 | Brighton and Hove | 6 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 97 |
| 825 | Buckinghamshire | 13 | 1 | 14 | 5 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 272 |
| 845 | East Sussex | 11 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 230 |
| 850 | Hampshire | 26 | 1 | 27 | 7 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 598 |
| 921 | Isle of Wight | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 74 |
| 886 | Kent | 24 | 5 | 29 | 12 | 98 | 1 | 1 | 711 |
| 887 | Medway | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 117 |
| 826 | Milton Keynes | 6 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 123 |
| 931 | Oxfordshire | 14 | 4 | 18 | 1 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 347 |
| 851 | Portsmouth | 5 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 77 |
| 870 | Reading | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 63 |
| 871 | Slough | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 51 |
| 852 | Southampton | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 91 |
| 936 | Surrey | 24 | 7 | 31 | 13 | 116 | 0 | 0 | 831 |
| 869 | West Berkshire | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 95 |
| 938 | West Sussex | 12 | 2 | 14 | 3 | 53 | 0 | 0 | 354 |
| 868 | Windsor and Maidenhead | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 84 |
| 872 | Wokingham | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 78 |
| | *South West* | 86 | 8 | 94 | 55 | 240 | 1 | 1 | 2,672 |
| 800 | Bath and North East Somerset | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 88 |

| | | Special | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | LEA Mntd | Non-Mntd | Total | Pupil Referral Units | Independent | City Technology Colleges | Academies | All Schools |
| 837 | Bournemouth | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 46 |
| 801 | Bristol, City of | 10 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 24 | 0 | 1 | 181 |
| 908 | Cornwall | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 297 |
| 878 | Devon | 10 | 3 | 13 | 7 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 421 |
| 835 | Dorset | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 206 |
| 916 | Gloucestershire | 12 | 1 | 13 | 5 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 340 |
| 420 | Isles of Scilly | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 802 | North Somerset | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 89 |
| 879 | Plymouth | 8 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 111 |
| 836 | Poole | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 46 |
| 933 | Somerset | 8 | 0 | 8 | 13 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 317 |
| 803 | South Gloucestershire | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 120 |
| 856 | Swindon | 6 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 85 |
| 880 | Torbay | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| 865 | Wiltshire | 6 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 276 |

*Source: School Census.*

### Schools: Absenteeism

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the pupil absence rate during the second half of the summer term 2007; when the decision was taken not to collect school absence data for the second half of the summer term; and if he will make a statement. [168197]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has collected pupil attendance data up to the first half of the summer term since 1993-94. That arrangement continues through the termly school census. Data in the second half of this term are unrepresentative of the year as a whole, given the study leave of many Year 11 pupils (and further absences following their exams).

To estimate the pupil absence rate during this period would require an extension to the scope of the school census.

### Schools: Admissions

**Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what financial provision is made for schools which accept new pupils outside the normal admissions timetable and after budget allocations have been made; and what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance is provided to schools for such pupils whose first language is not English. [166913]

**Jim Knight:** At the beginning of the financial year, local authorities are required to provide to the Governors of a school a budget based upon the number of pupils on roll at the School Census in the previous January. In order to provide stability to schools, that budget may not be amended after the start of the financial year and schools are therefore required to organise within that budget for the whole year, taking into consideration admission numbers. No adjustments may be made, regardless of whether a pupil leaves or joins and there may be turnover in both directions. Local authorities may, however, choose to include within their formula a factor for schools with significantly rising rolls. This is likely to be based upon an estimate of numbers where it is anticipated there will be a significant influx of pupils arriving after the School Census is taken the previous January, or a factor which provides additional funds in the following financial year.

The Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) gives ring-fenced funding for minority ethnic pupils and pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL). The grant is approx £179 million in 2007-08, rising to £206 million in 2011. Longstanding guidance and funding is in place to support schools in teaching English as an additional language. Furthermore, the New Arrivals Excellence Programme (NAEP), launched in July 2007 gives support, advice, guidance and training to schools in offering the best provision for learning EAL. Selected local authorities with schools that have little experience of integrating children who are new arrivals will have access to outreach support from a dedicated Regional Adviser. This will ensure they can access the curriculum as quickly as possible.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has recently announced an additional Exceptional Circumstances Grant to local authorities with significant extra pressures on their schools budgets from new arrivals, between January and the start of the school-year. This will be on a case-by-case basis when there is a significant increase in pupil numbers in a local authority; or where the proportion of EAL pupils significantly increases in a local authority.

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of inward migration on schools in Peterborough constituency over the last 10 years. [167563]

**Jim Knight:** Local authorities are responsible for balancing the demand and supply of school places in their area. They have a duty to ensure there are sufficient school places, the needs of the local community are served and good quality education is provided in a cost-effective way.

The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of school places and the

number of pupils on roll via an annual survey. Local authorities also provide area-wide forecasts of pupil numbers at primary and secondary levels. The earliest data available are for 2003 and the most recent are for 2007.

The following table shows the number of school places, pupil numbers and the level of surplus places in Peterborough for the past five years. The local authority's forecasts of pupil numbers for the next five years (primary) and seven years (secondary) do not show a significant increase in pupil numbers.

| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Primary* | | | | | |
| Capacity[1] | 18,014 | 17,553 | 17,248 | 17,267 | 17,374 |
| NOR[2] | 15,339 | 15,295 | 15,176 | 15,064 | 15,065 |
| Surplus[3] | 2,756 | 2,299 | 2,276 | 2,257 | 2,309 |
| *Secondary* | | | | | |
| Capacity[1] | 14,878 | 14,875 | 14,875 | 15,313 | 15,472 |
| NOR[2] | 12,980 | 12,838 | 12,925 | 13,183 | 13,187 |
| Surplus[3] | 1,898 | 2,037 | 1,958 | 2,210 | 2,285 |

[1] Capacity is the number of school places as at January.
[2] NOR relates to the number of pupils on role as at January.
[3] Surplus relates to the difference between the capacity of a school and the number of pupils on roll.

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of schools in England have admissions criteria based on *(a)* ability, *(b)* aptitude and *(c)* faith; and if he will make a statement. [168198]

**Jim Knight:** There are 164 schools designated as grammar schools under section 104 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 which select substantially all of their pupils by ability, representing 4.9 per cent. of all secondary schools. In addition, some 40 schools which did so before 1997 select a proportion of their pupils by ability, or 1.25 per cent. of secondary schools.

The Department does not collect data on selection by aptitude.

Schools designated as having a religious character under section 69 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 may give priority, when oversubscribed, to children on the basis that they are members of or practise their faith. This use of oversubscription criteria is tightly regulated by the Admission Code. We know that practices vary widely and that a number of schools with a religious character do not give priority on the basis of faith and others offer a proportion of places to children without reference to faith. We do not collect this information centrally and have no plans to do so.

### Schools: Arson

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of arson in schools in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local education authority. [169046]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I have been asked to reply.

The latest data available from my Department are for the year 2005. The following tables shows the cost of arson in schools by English region and by fire and rescue authority using my Department's most recent economic costs of fire model (2004) to estimate the costs of fire in schools for the period 2001-05. My Department does not collect data on arson by local education authority.

| *Region* | [1]2001 | [1]2002 | [1]2003 | [1]2004 | £ [1]2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East | 1,864,800 | 1,531,800 | 2,164,500 | 2,297,700 | 1,798,200 |
| East Midlands | 1,665,000 | 1,698,300 | 1,831,500 | 2,031,300 | 832,500 |
| London | 2,997,000 | 732,600 | 1,798,200 | 1,798,200 | 1,198,800 |
| North-east | 1,731,600 | 2,897,100 | 1,265,400 | 965,700 | 865,800 |
| North-west | 6,826,500 | 5,094,900 | 5,494,500 | 5,328,000 | 3,996,000 |
| South-east | 3,230,100 | 2,331,000 | 3,330,000 | 3,762,900 | 2,097,900 |
| South-west | 2,364,300 | 1,465,200 | 1,798,200 | 1,065,600 | 732,600 |
| West Midlands | 2,630,700 | 2,164,500 | 2,763,900 | 2,231,100 | 2,364,300 |
| Yorkshire and Humberside | 5,161,500 | 4,162,500 | 4,662,000 | 3,096,900 | 2,331,000 |

[1] Cost of arson based on average cost of school fire of £33,000.

| *Fire and rescue authority* | [1]2001 | [1]2002 | [1]2003 | [1]2004 | £ [1]2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Avon | 566,100 | 666,000 | 965,700 | 399,600 | 233,100 |
| Bedfordshire | 333,000 | 566,100 | 399,600 | 266,400 | 66,600 |
| Berkshire | 66,600 | 399,600 | 266,400 | 0 | 133,200 |
| Buckinghamshire | 299,700 | 0 | 166,500 | 632,700 | 333,000 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 133,200 | 499,500 | 399,600 | 233,100 |
| Cheshire | 333,000 | 566,100 | 366,300 | 166,500 | 333,000 |
| Cleveland | 166,500 | 1,298,700 | 166,500 | 33,300 | 99,900 |
| Cornwall | 0 | 0 | 199,800 | 233,100 | 33,300 |
| Cumbria | 233,100 | 99,900 | 166,500 | 233,100 | 133,200 |
| Derbyshire | 466,200 | 466,200 | 599,400 | 266,400 | 233,100 |
| Devon | 699,300 | 333,000 | 199,800 | 99,900 | 99,900 |

| Fire and rescue authority | [1]2001 | [1]2002 | [1]2003 | [1]2004 | £ [1]2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dorset | 432,900 | 0 | 133,200 | 99,900 | 166,500 |
| Durham | 333,000 | 432,900 | 166,500 | 166,500 | 199,800 |
| East Sussex | 532,800 | 0 | 299,700 | 765,900 | 299,700 |
| Essex | 499,500 | 166,500 | 732,600 | 399,600 | 466,200 |
| Gloucestershire | 166,500 | 166,500 | 299,700 | 0 | 0 |
| Greater London | 2,997,000 | 732,600 | 1,798,200 | 1,798,200 | 1,198,800 |
| Greater Manchester | 3,363,300 | 2,597,400 | 2,530,800 | 2,164,500 | 1,631,700 |
| Hampshire | 799,200 | 466,200 | 832,500 | 765,900 | 199,800 |
| Hereford and Worcester | 166,500 | 133,200 | 166,500 | 299,700 | 233,100 |
| Hertfordshire | 266,400 | 499,500 | 199,800 | 333,000 | 266,400 |
| Humberside | 1,065,600 | 865,800 | 1,431,900 | 832,500 | 432,900 |
| Isle of Wight | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33,300 |
| Isles of Scilly | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kent | 566,100 | 499,500 | 566,100 | 299,700 | 366,300 |
| Lancashire | 1,398,600 | 899,100 | 965,700 | 1,298,700 | 932,400 |
| Leicestershire | 699,300 | 532,800 | 632,700 | 532,800 | 233,100 |
| Lincolnshire | 0 | 66,600 | 133,200 | 233,100 | 33,300 |
| Merseyside | 1,498,500 | 932,400 | 1,465,200 | 1,465,200 | 965,700 |
| Norfolk | 133,200 | 133,200 | 166,500 | 133,200 | 233,100 |
| North Yorkshire | 166,500 | 166,500 | 166,500 | 199,800 | 266,400 |
| Northamptonshire | 366,300 | 33,300 | 166,500 | 466,200 | 466,200 |
| Northumberland | 166,500 | 0 | 266,400 | 0 | 66,600 |
| Nottinghamshire | 499,500 | 632,700 | 466,200 | 999,000 | 333,000 |
| Oxfordshire | 366,300 | 199,800 | 399,600 | 299,700 | 66,600 |
| Shropshire | 0 | 0 | 299,700 | 566,100 | 166,500 |
| Somerset | 499,500 | 299,700 | 0 | 233,100 | 199,800 |
| South Yorkshire | 1,431,900 | 932,400 | 799,200 | 666,000 | 599,400 |
| Staffordshire | 632,700 | 299,700 | 432,900 | 199,800 | 499,500 |
| Suffolk | 266,400 | 0 | 0 | 299,700 | 66,600 |
| Surrey | 266,400 | 0 | 466,200 | 233,100 | 199,800 |
| Tyne and Wear | 1,065,600 | 1,165,500 | 666,000 | 765,900 | 499,500 |
| Warwickshire | 166,500 | 333,000 | 266,400 | 233,100 | 233,100 |
| West Midlands | 1,665,000 | 1,398,600 | 1,598,400 | 932,400 | 1,232,100 |
| West Sussex | 0 | 732,600 | 333,000 | 765,900 | 299,700 |
| West Yorkshire | 2,497,500 | 2,197,800 | 2,264,400 | 1,398,600 | 1,032,300 |
| Wiltshire | 333,000 | 33,300 | 0 | 0 | 166,500 |

[1] Cost of arson based on average cost of school fire of £33,000.

## Schools: Biometrics

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools are making use of biometric identification systems for pupils, broken down by local education authority. [167479]

**Jim Knight:** We have no information on the number of schools making use of biometric identification systems for pupils. There is no requirement for schools to inform their local authority or the Department when they introduce such systems.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what use schools are making of biometric identification systems for pupils. [167620]

**Jim Knight:** We are aware of schools using biometric identification systems for three sets of administrative functions; to assist in cashless catering for lunches; to help manage lending in the school library; and to record attendance at classes.

## Schools: Co-operation

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the statement by the Prime Minister on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, which schools will be twinned under the proposals announced; what he expects the costs of this programme to be; how he plans to measure the effectiveness of this programme; and if he will make a statement. [168347]

**Jim Knight:** All schools have the opportunity to find a partner school through the newly established school linking gateway www.schoolslinkingnetwork.org.uk, supported by the Schools Linking Network.

The DCSF has provided the Schools Linking Network (established with £1 million funding from the Pears Foundation) with £125,000 in this financial year and earmarked £2 million over the next three financial years to provide support to schools and local authorities to develop links between schools.

The programme's impact will be measured through an independent evaluation.

## Schools: Expenditure

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much has been allocated per child in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in the (i) Romford, (ii) Hornchurch and (iii) Upminster constituencies in each of the last five years; [168433]

(2) what the average Government spending per child in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools is (i) in Romford and (ii) in London; [168387]

**Jim Knight:** The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Romford, Hornchurch and Upminster constituencies is not available. The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2003-04 to 2005-06 for Havering local authority are as follows:

| | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Primary (pupils aged 3-10) | 3,541 | 3,645 | 3,828 |
| Secondary (pupils aged 11-15) | 4,509 | 4,715 | 4,875 |
| Total (pupils aged 3-19) | 4,033 | 4,192 | 4,370 |

*Notes:*
1. Price Base: Real terms at 2006-07 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 26 September 2007.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education formula spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3-19 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the table below are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2003-04 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. The DSG is based on planned spend. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS, which comprises a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2006-07 to 2007-08 for Havering local authority and the London averages are as follows:

| | *DSG plus grants* | |
|---|---|---|
| | *2006-07* | *2007-08* |
| Havering | 4,224 | 4,374 |
| London | 5,067 | 5,253 |

*Notes:*
1. The revenue funding per pupil figures only run to 2005-06 because we cannot provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 2003-04 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS: EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable, an alternative time series is currently under development.
3. Price Base: Real terms at 2006-07 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 26 September 2007.
4. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

## Schools: Finance

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of schools which will receive no more than the minimum annual funding guarantee in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [167781]

**Jim Knight:** It is not possible to estimate the number of schools receiving only the guaranteed level of funding provided for by the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2008-09. To do this would require known pupil numbers for the financial year (which are not counted until January 2008), and the individual formulae of each authority along with any changes to those factors proposed for 2008-09.

## Schools: Governing Bodies

**Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many interim executive boards authorised by him have been required to include officers from the local authority; [162143]

(2) whether it is his policy that interim executive boards must include officers from the local authority. [162144]

**Jim Knight:** Members of an interim executive board (IEB) are chosen and appointed in individual school cases by the appropriate authority, which may be either the local authority (LA) or the Secretary of State. When the Secretary of State considers an LA's application for an IEB to replace a governing body, he will give particular attention to whether the membership of the Board represents the right mix of skills and experience to meet the school's needs. In the majority of cases, the LA's proposals contain one or more officers from that authority, and where this is not proposed the Secretary of State sometimes invites the LA to consider such membership. In other cases, the Secretary of State has invited extra membership from experienced professionals ouside the LA, to secure an independent view on the Board.

In the case of the IEB for Alderman Blaxhill School, in the hon. Gentleman's constituency, Essex county council had already proposed an LA officer, but the Secretary of State invited them to nominate a second, though he did not require them to do so.

In summary, there is no prescriptive policy in this area: each case is considered on its merits, based on the needs of the school.

### Schools: Intimidation

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in which 20 *(a)* local education authorities and *(b)* schools the most incidences of bullying occurred in the latest period for which figures are available; [169492]

(2) how many reported cases of bullying there were in schools in the last year for which records are available; [169616]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to eradicate bullying in schools; [169613]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the effect of bullying upon educational attainment in schools; [169493]

(5) what assessment he has made of the correlation between incidence of bullying and levels of school performance; [169494]

(6) what steps his Department plans to take to involve trades unions and employers in anti-bullying initiatives. [169482]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information is as follows:

*169492 and 169616*

We are unable to provide definitive figures for numbers of bullying incidents at school as we do not collect these data centrally.

However, tables showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions in each local authority area by reason for exclusion have been placed in the Library. This includes a category relating to bullying.

*169613*

The Government are spending around £1.8 million this year supporting schools to meet their legal obligations to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils. Earlier this year we issued comprehensive new guidance to schools on how to prevent and tackle bullying called 'Safe to Learn: Embedding anti-bullying work in schools'. It includes practical advice for schools on how to develop robust anti-bullying policies and embed effective practice, and specific advice on tackling cyberbullying and homophobic bullying. This suite of guidance links to the guidance we produced last year for schools on 'Bullying Around Race Religion and Culture', and we will publish further guidance in the spring on how tackle the bullying of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

In the Education and Inspections Act 2006, we introduced new powers for head teachers and school staff to ensure proper discipline both inside and outside schools. The Act empowers school staff to impose disciplinary penalties for bad behaviour, and to regulate the behaviour of pupils when they are off the school site.

We fund a number of voluntary organisations including: the Anti-Bullying Alliance who provide support and training for local authorities and schools on anti-bullying work; ChildLine in Partnership with Schools (CHIPS) who run peer mentoring schemes on behalf of the Department; and ParentLine Plus who provide advice and support for the parents of children and young people who are being bullied. We are working with the Cyberbullying Taskforce to take forward a comprehensive programme of work to tackle cyberbullying and have launched an online digital campaign targeted at children and young people. We are working with the national strategies' regional advisers to embed effective anti-bullying practice on the ground, and to work with identified schools to support and challenge them in improving their anti-bullying policies and strategies.

In anti-bullying week we announced that we would be providing £3 million over the next two years to run peer mentoring pilots. We have also commissioned Childnet International to produce a resource pack to provide school staff with practical information and advice on how to tackle cyberbullying, and how best to introduce the topic in the classroom.

*169493 and 169494*

The Department has not commissioned any research which compares incidents of bullying with levels of school performance or educational attainment. However, we are aware that there is research evidence to suggest bullying impacts on educational attainment and attendance. We have made clear in our published guidance that providing a safe and happy learning environment is integral to achieving the wider objectives of school improvement, raising achievement and attendance, promoting equality and diversity as well as ensuring the welfare of all members of the school community.

*169482*

The Department consulted with all the major school staff unions in drawing up the Safe to Learn comprehensive anti-bullying guidance for schools, and its constituent elements covering cyberbullying and homophobic bullying. The school staff unions are also represented on the Department's Cyberbullying Taskforce, which brings together representatives of school staff, children's charities and the new technology providers to discuss strategies for addressing and preventing cyberbullying. There are no plans at this stage to involve employers in such discussions.

### Schools: Minibuses

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the impact of new minibus driving licence regulations on school budgets; and if he will make a statement; [167994]

(2) what advice his Department has issued to local authorities on the interpretation of new minibus driving licence regulations. [167995]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The Department has made no estimate of the impact of these regulations on school budgets.

The Department has issued guidance "Licensing of Incidental Drivers of the School Minibus" which states that school staff are in general exempt from the D1 PCV requirement since they receive no consideration for such driving. It also states: "In the medium term, when a school replaces its minibus, it is likely to lose exemption because newer minibuses tend to weigh more than 3.5 tonnes, and the Government has no plans to change the weight limit on the exemption. Therefore we advise schools to consider investing in D1 PCV training over the next few years, since the law will require it in the longer term, if or when they move to a heavier minibus."

## Schools: Standards

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* academies, *(b)* schools in special measures and *(c)* schools given notice to improve there were in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [167366]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* The information is set out in the following tables. Table 1 shows the number of open academies in each Government office region on 1 September 2007. Table 2 shows the number of schools requiring significant improvement (notice to improve) and special measures in each region on 31 August 2007. It is based on the most recent information published by Ofsted in September this year.

*Table 1*

| *Government office region* | *Academies at 1 September 2007* |
|---|---|
| East of England | 4 |
| East Midlands | 4 |
| London | 34 |
| North East | 4 |
| North West | 8 |
| South East | 9 |
| South West | 4 |
| West Midlands | 6 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 10 |
| Total | 83 |

*Table 2*

| | | *Ofsted category* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Government office region* | *Phase* | *Significant improvement (notice to improve) at 31 August 2007* | *Special measures at 31 August 2007* |
| East of England | Primary | 15 | 16 |
| | PRU[1] | — | 1 |
| | Secondary | 8 | 13 |
| | Special[2] | — | 2 |
| East Midlands | Primary | 24 | 33 |
| | PRU | 1 | — |
| | Secondary | 10 | — |
| London | Primary | 23 | 17 |
| | PRU | 2 | — |
| | Secondary | 9 | 4 |
| North-east | Primary | 9 | 6 |
| | PRU | 1 | 2 |
| | Secondary | 5 | — |
| | Special | — | 1 |
| North-west | Primary | 18 | 23 |
| | PRU | 2 | 1 |
| | Secondary | 7 | 8 |
| | Special | 2 | 2 |
| South-east | Primary | 41 | 19 |
| | PRU | 1 | 3 |
| | Secondary | 15 | 5 |
| | Special | 2 | 1 |
| South-west | Primary | 19 | 21 |
| | Secondary | 4 | 1 |
| | Special | 2 | 2 |
| West midlands | Primary | 37 | 29 |
| | PRU | 1 | 2 |
| | Secondary | 9 | 8 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | Primary | 18 | 17 |
| | PRU | 2 | — |
| | Secondary | 19 | 10 |
| | Special | — | 1 |
| Total | | 306 | 246 |

[1] PRU = pupil referral units
[2] Special = special schools

## Schools: Teaching Methods

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued on the use of setting in schools; and when such guidance was issued. [168514]

**Jim Knight:** In September 2006 we published 'Grouping Pupils for Success' (publication reference DfES03945-2006DWO-EN). This is a suite of guidance documents for primary and secondary school leaders and subject leaders/coordinators, designed to encourage effective strategies for grouping and setting. The guidance was published and promoted through the National Strategies and is available to all schools from: www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk.

This guidance is based on independent research, commissioned by the Department and published in two phases. In September 2007 we published 'Effective Teaching and Learning for Pupils in Low Attaining Groups' (reference DCSF-RR011/DCSF-RB011), a fieldwork report. This built on research published in September 2006 entitled 'Pupil Grouping Strategies and Practices at Key Stage 2 and 3' (reference RR796/RB796). These reports are available from our research gateway at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/research.

## Schools: Translation Services

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much schools in each London borough spent on translation services in each of the past five years. [168117]

**Jim Knight:** My Department does not collect this information.

## Science: GCE A-Level

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students were entered for examination at A2 level in *(a)* biology, *(b)* physics, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* engineering and *(e)* computer science in each year since 1997. [168299]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is as follows.

*Number of 16 to 18-year-old pupils entered for selected GCE/VCE A-level subjects from 1996/97 to 2006/07 in England*

| | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/2000 | 2000/01 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Biological Sciences | 47,598 | 48,897 | 47,192 | 46,190 | 44,592 |
| Chemistry | 36,429 | 37,103 | 35,831 | 35,290 | 33,871 |
| Physics | 28,777 | 29,672 | 29,552 | 28,191 | 28,031 |
| Computer Studies | 10,118 | 12,529 | 10,435 | 10,851 | 10,913 |
| Engineering (VCE)[1] | — | — | — | — | — |

| | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Biological Sciences | 45,407 | 43,902 | 44,235 | 45,662 | 46,624 | 46,916 |
| Chemistry | 32,324 | 31,065 | 32,130 | 33,164 | 34,534 | 35,157 |
| Physics | 27,860 | 26,278 | 24,606 | 24,094 | 23,657 | 23,973 |
| Computer Studies | 9,329 | 8,256 | 6,853 | 5,810 | 5,017 | 4,654 |
| Engineering (VCE)[1] | 407 | 361 | 380 | 339 | 211 | 194 |

[1] Figures for VCE examinations only available from 2001/02 onwards. The figure relating to 2006/07 includes both GCE and VCE applied examinations.
[2] 2006/07 data are provisional. Schools will get the chance to amend their results as part of the data checking process before the revised figures are published in mid January 2008.

## Secondary Education: Truancy

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of schools have adopted secondary school behaviour and truancy partnerships. [167538]

**Jim Knight:** Nearly all secondary schools are now working together in partnerships to improve behaviour and tackle persistent absence and we are supporting and encouraging those schools that have yet to join a partnership.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of secondary school sessions were missed through unauthorised absences in the last 12 months. [167539]

**Kevin Brennan:** The available information is shown in the tables.

Absence rates for secondary schools in 2006/07 are expected to be published in February 2008.

*Maintained Secondary Schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies[1]: Pupil Absence by Type of School, England, 2005/06*

| | Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[3] | Number of pupil enrolments[4, 5] | Percentage of half days missed[2] Authorised absence | Unauthorised absence | Overall absence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Maintained Secondary Schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies* | 2,983,040 | 3,056,330 | 6.82 | 1.42 | 8.24 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
[3] Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged five to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.
[4] Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Notes to Editors 11, 12 and 13.
[5] There were some 7,240 cases from maintained secondary schools; 20 cases from CTCs and 370 cases from academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments. See Notes to Editors 12.
*Note:* Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census.

*Maintained Secondary Schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies[1]: Pupil Absence by Type of School, England, Autumn Term 2006 and Spring Term 2007*

| | *Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[3]* | *Number of pupil enrolments[4, 5]* | *Percentage of half days missed[2]* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *Authorised absence* | *Unauthorised absence* | *Overall absence* |
| *Maintained Secondary Schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies* | 2,954,940 | 3,016,240 | 6.30 | 1.48 | 7.78 |

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
[3] Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged five to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration.
[4] Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2006 and 9 April 2007. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school). See Notes to Editors 14 and 15.
[5] There were some 32,498 cases from primary schools; 16,470 cases from maintained secondary schools, 18 cases from CTCs and 750 cases from academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments. See Notes to Editors 15.
*Notes:*
1. The overall absence rate, including both authorised and unauthorised absence for autumn term 2005 and spring term 2006.
2. Data for academies are based on 46 academies for autumn 2006 and spring 2007, 19 of which opened in autumn 2006.
3. Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
School Census.

### Sports: Children

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 661W, on sports: children, whether there are any targets set for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) physical development of babies and young children; how progress in this area will be assessed; and how much funding has been allocated to the EYFS. [168988]

**Beverley Hughes:** The EYFS defines milestones in the form of Early Learning Goals which provide the basis for assessing children's development at the end of the EYFS—normally at the end of reception class. Children's progress during, and at the end of the EYFS (age five) when the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile will be completed, are based on observational assessment of them in everyday activities, by practitioners using their professional judgement. One of the 13 scales used to assess young children's development at age five relates to physical development. Targets both at national level and local authority level relate to overall achievement across the Foundation Stage Profile, rather than specific targets relating to the physical development.

Government invest some £3 billion each year in the delivery of the free entitlement to nursery education for three and four-year-olds. Funding is provided to local authorities through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and covers provision delivered in accordance with the Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Daycare Standards by providers in the maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors (PVI). In addition, we announced in the summer over £4 billion Revenue and £893 million Capital three year (2008-11) allocations for local authorities of Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG) (formerly General Sure Start Grant). The Department has provided specific funding of an additional £7 million in each of 2007-08 and 2008-09 to LAs through the Standards Funds and the SSEYCG to support EYFS training of practitioners in schools and PVI settings.

### Students: Transport

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what transport support provision is available for home to school or college for students in further education in the London Borough of Havering. [168419]

**Jim Knight:** From 1 September 2006, Transport for London introduced a free travel concession on buses and trams for young people under the age of 18 who are attending a full-time education course. The concession expires at the end of the academic year in which the student turns 18.

### Teachers: Recruitment

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the recruitment target for all forms of secondary teacher training in *(a)* biology, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* physics, *(d)* mathematics, *(e)* engineering and *(f)* computer science was in each of the last 10 years. [168297]

**Jim Knight:** The Department sets targets for recruitment to mainstream initial teacher training and the targets for science, mathematics, design and technology, and information and communications technology (ICT) between 1998/99 and 2007/8 are shown in the following table.

*Mainstream initial teacher training places[1]: academic year 1998/99 to 2007/08*

| Secondary subject | 1998/99 | 1999/2000 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Science | 3,050 | 2,390 | 2,690 | 2,810 | 2,850 | 3,225 | 3,225 | 3,225 | 3,225 | 3,225 |
| Mathematics | 2,150 | 1,680 | 1,850 | 1,940 | 1,940 | 2,315 | 2,350 | 2,350 | 2,350 | 2,350 |
| Design and Technology[2] | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1,085 | 1,060 | 1,010 | 930 |
| Information and communications technology[2] | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1,050 | 1,100 | 1,040 | 985 |

[1] Includes school centred ITT but excludes employment based routes (EBR).
[2] Number of places for design and technology and information and communications technology are not available before 2004/05 as these were grouped as a total technology target in these years.
*Note:*
Places for vocational subjects in 2006/07 and 2007/08 are included with the allocation for related academic subject: Science includes places for applied science, design and technology includes both manufacturing and engineering and ICT includes applied ICT. In 2004/05, places for vocational subjects were shown separately. In 2003/04, the margin of flexibility included places for a vocational subjects pilot.
*Source:*
DCSF.

The Department does not currently set targets for employment based routes initial teacher training courses. However, recruitment data for EBR ITT courses is taken into account in projecting the future required number of recruits and successful completers on each type of programme and by subject which assists in determining the targets required for mainstream ITT recruitment.

### Teachers: Romford

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* learning assistants there were in Romford secondary schools on the latest date for which figures are available. [168428]

**Jim Knight:** The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained secondary schools in Romford constituency in January 2007.

*Full-time equivalent teachers and support staff in local authority maintained secondary schools[1] in Romford constituency, January 2007*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Qualified teachers | 270 |
| Other teaching staff | 20 |
| Total teaching staff | 290 |

*Full-time equivalent teachers and support staff in local authority maintained secondary schools[1] in Romford constituency, January 2007*

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Teaching assistants | 50 |
| Other support staff | 160 |
| Total support staff | 210 |

[1] Local authority maintained secondary schools excludes academies and city technology colleges.
*Note:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

### Teachers: Training

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of those enrolled as teacher trainees in each year since 1997 were teachers three years after enrolment. [166623]

**Jim Knight:** Information tracking those who enrol as teacher trainees through to them starting teaching is not held centrally.

The following table shows the number of final year Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees for each academic year between 1998/99 and 2005/06 who gained Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in their final year of training and of these the number who were known to be in a teaching post six months after gaining QTS for Mainstream Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees. Information is not available for 1997/98 in a consistent format.

*Mainstream final year ITT trainees[1]*

| Academic year | Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year | Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS[2] | Number of final year trainees who gained QTS and are known to be in a teaching post 6 months after gaining QTS[3, 4] | Proportion of mainstream final year trainees who gain QTS | Proportion of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS who are known to be in a teaching post six months after gaining QTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998/99 | 27,200 | 24,070 | 19,240 | 88 | 80 |
| 1999/2000 | 24,650 | 21,690 | 17,800 | 88 | 82 |
| 2000/01 | 25,720 | 22,640 | 18,940 | 88 | 84 |
| 2001/02 | 26,350 | 23,280 | 19,660 | 88 | 84 |
| 2002/03 | 28,570 | 25,430 | 20,150 | 89 | 79 |
| 2003/04 | 30,970 | 27,340 | 21,820 | 88 | 80 |
| 2004/05 | 31,360 | 27,150 | 21,960 | 87 | 81 |
| 2005/06 | 31,310 | 27,100 | 22,040 | 87 | 81 |

[1] Includes trainees from Universities and other Higher Education (HE) institutions, School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) and Open Universities (OU), but excludes Employment Based Routes (EBR).
[2] Those who failed to gain QTS include those who are yet to complete their course, those who left before the end of their course, those who had their QTS withheld, those who have not taken the skills test and those with an unknown outcome.
[3] Those in a teaching post six months after gaining QTS include those in maintained schools, non-maintained schools and where the sector is unknown.
[4] Those who are not in a teaching post six months after gaining QTS include those who are seeking a teaching post, those who are not seeking a teaching post and those with an unknown destination.
*Note:*
Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
TDA performance profiles

The following tables show the number of final year Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees for each academic year between 2001/02 and 2005/06 who gained Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in their final year of training for Employment Based Routes (EBR) trainees. Information relating to the number of trainees gaining QTS through employment based routes was only collected from 2001/02 onwards and the employment status of trainees through EBR is not collected.

*Employment Based Routes (EBR) final year ITT trainees[1]*

| *Academic year* | *Total number of EBR trainees in their final year* | *Number of EBR final year trainees gaining QTS[2]* | *Proportion of EBR final year trainees who gain QTS* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001/02 | 2,440 | 2,210 | 91 |
| 2002/03 | 4,030 | 3,670 | 91 |
| 2003/04 | 4,950 | 4,470 | 90 |
| 2004/05 | 7,220 | 6,600 | 91 |
| 2005/06 | 6,970 | 6,090 | 87 |

[1] Includes trainees through Employment Based Routes (EBR) only.
[2] Those who failed to gain QTS include those who are yet to complete their course, those who left before the end of their course, those who had their QTS withheld, those who have not taken the skills test and those with an unknown outcome.
*Note:*
Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10.
*Source:*
TDA performance profiles.

The following table shows the proportion of full and part-time teachers in maintained schools who were still teaching in the maintained sector three years after gaining QTS, by the year which they gained QTS.

*Percentage of full and part-time[1] teachers that qualified in a particular year and were still in service in the maintained sector in England three years later*

| *Year qualified[2]* | *First year in service[3]* | *Percentage in full or part-time service three years later* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 1997-98 | 79 |
| 1998 | 1998-99 | 79 |
| 1999 | 1999-200 | 79 |
| 2000 | 2000-01 | 80 |
| 2001 | 2001-02 | 81 |
| 2002 | 2002-03 | 82 |

[1] Teachers in part-time service are under-recorded on the DTR by between 10 and 20 per cent. and therefore these figures may be slightly underestimated.
[2] Calendar year in which the teachers qualified
[3] Financial year during which the teachers entered service.
*Source:*
Database of Teacher Records (DTR).

## Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department collects and monitors in relation to the telephone contact centres for which his Department is responsible. [166536]

**Kevin Brennan:** In line with the Government's response to Sir David Varney's report on Service Transformation, the Department for Children, Schools and Families collects information against the 26 performance management indicators published by The Citizen and Business Contact Centre Council (CBCCC). The Department submitted its first return on performance against these indicators in October this year. The 26 indicators are published on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/public_service_reform/contact_council/workplan.aspx

The Department also uses feedback received by the contact centre to inform its policy making process.

In addition to the Department's own contact centre, DCSF also contracts with suppliers to provide telephone helpline services to the public, usually in support of information campaigns. These contracts cover the provision of data by the suppliers to enable the Department to ensure that the supplier is meeting the Key Performance Indicators set out in the contract. Additionally, the Department may run mystery shopping or user survey research to further monitor the performance of the contact centres.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much each telephone contact centre for which his Department is responsible has *(a)* cost and *(b)* generated in income in each financial year since their establishment. [166537]

**Kevin Brennan:** This Department does not operate a telephone contact centre as such; rather, there is a central Public Communications Unit that deals with telephone inquiries, e-mails, written correspondence and public consultations. To extract the cost of telephone handling alone would incur disproportionate cost.

None of the activities of the Public Communications Unit generates income for the Department.

The Department also contracts with suppliers to provide helpline services to the public, usually in support of information campaigns. The cost of all of these in each financial year since they were set up could be given only at disproportionate cost. None of these contact centres generate income for the Department.

### Truancy: Custodial Treatment

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents were imprisoned following a child's absence from school in each of the last three years. [167784]

**Jim Knight:** The Ministry of Justice collects data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) for failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school; or prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly; and for various offences under the Education Act 1996—these are likely to include some prosecutions under s444 and s444(1A) for England and Wales. The information on the number of people given immediate custodial sentences is detailed in the following table:

*England and Wales*

| | *Education Act 1996* | *Education Act 96, s444* | *Education Act 96, S444(1A* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| 2004 | 10 | 8 | 14 |
| 2005 | 9 | 5 | 15 |

### World War II: Education

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will ensure that teaching of the historical fact of the Holocaust is mandatory in the school curriculum. [165966]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* The National Curriculum requires pupils aged between 11 and 14 to study the Holocaust and this has not changed following the recent KS3 review where the Holocaust remains one of the very few compulsory elements of the History Curriculum. Its study is supported by funding from the Holocaust Education Trust to offer a visit to Auschwitz to two 15 to 17-year-olds from every English secondary school.

### Young People: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to reduce alcohol abuse amongst teenagers. [167864]

**Kevin Brennan** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The Government are committed to reducing substance misuse among young people, including that relating to alcohol. In June of this year, the Government published the updated Alcohol Strategy for England, "Safe. Sensible. Social." For the first time, it identifies under-18s as a priority group for Government action on alcohol and sets out the reduction of drinking by young people as a Government objective. As part of this strategy, this Department has committed to:

Establishing a panel of experts who will produce authoritative, accessible guidance about what is and what is not safe and sensible in the light of the latest available evidence from the UK and abroad, to help young people and their parents make informed decisions about alcohol; and

Raising awareness of young people's alcohol use and—through a social marketing campaign—to work to create a culture where it is socially acceptable for young people to choose not to drink and, if they do, to do so later and more safely.

Alcohol education continues to be a vital element of our approach. The Department's guidance, "Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES 2004)" is clear that pupils' education about alcohol and its effects should start in primary school, before drinking patterns become established and should be revisited as pupils' understanding and experience increases.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Monday 3 December 2007*

## HEALTH

### AIDS: Medical Treatments

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding was committed for the treatment of *(a)* HIV and *(b)* AIDS in each health authority in England in each of the last five years. [169998]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and HIV prevention was included in main national health service allocations from April 2002, and is therefore not separately identified.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of treatment for *(a)* HIV and *(b)* AIDS in each health authority in England in each of the last five years. [169999]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is not collected centrally.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients received treatment for *(a)* HIV and *(b)* AIDS in each health authority in England in each of the last five years. [170000]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information, by strategic health authority (SHA) is in the following tables.

*Number of HIV-infected persons reported to be receiving antiretroviral therapy (total number of HIV-infected persons accessing NHS care*

| *SHA* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 662 (1,054) | 813 (1,261) | 1076 (1,627) | 1,304 (1,952) | 1,470 (2,211) |
| East of England | 956 (1,533) | 1,228 (1,977) | 1,567 (2,440) | 1,868 (2,889) | 2,182 (3,295) |
| London | 1,1023 (17,123) | 12,548 (18,952) | 13,747 (20,411) | 15,121 (22,293) | 15,568 (23,986) |
| North East | 250 (404) | 304 (534) | 359 (641) | 410 (754) | 551 (868) |
| North West | 1,469 (2,313) | 1,892 (2,835) | 2,107 (3,340) | 2,549 (3,937) | 2,989 (4,512) |
| South Central | 760 (1,230) | 979 (1,654) | 1,194 (1,926) | 1,406 (2,179) | 1,614 (2,407) |
| South East Coast | 1,277 (1,933) | 1,477 (2,229) | 1,728 (2,566) | 1,996 (2,897) | 2,266 (3,246) |
| South West | 680 (1,067) | 899 (1,293) | 1,020 (1,543) | 1,297 (1,841) | 1,499 (2,107) |
| West Midlands | 700 (1,132) | 937 (1,665) | 1,204 (2,131) | 1,417 (2,555) | 1,604 (2,951) |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 662 (983) | 866 (1,318) | 1,089 (1,648) | 1,297 (2,050) | 1,661 (2,475) |

*Note:*
There are small numbers in each SHA in each of the last five years where it was not reported whether or not the patient was receiving antiretroviral therapy.

*Number of HIV-infected persons receiving antiretroviral therapy who have ever previously had an AIDS-defining illness (total number of HIV-infected persons accessing NHS care)*

| *SHA* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 217 (1,054) | 215 (1,261) | 271 (1,627) | 318 (1,952) | 418 (2,211) |
| East of England | 350 (1,533) | 403 (1,977) | 491 (2,440) | 566 (2,889) | 656 (3,295) |
| London | 3,726 (17,123) | 4,219 (18,952) | 4,445 (20,411) | 4,942 (22,293) | 5,052 (23,986) |
| North East | 82 (404) | 93 (534) | 102 (641) | 108 (754) | 131 (868) |
| North West | 501 (2,313) | 652 (2,835) | 690 (3,340) | 774 (3,937) | 948 (4,512) |
| South Central | 232 (1,230) | 323 (1,654) | 342 (1,926) | 422 (2,179) | 394 (2,407) |
| South East Coast | 436 (1,933) | 479 (2,229) | 566 (2,566) | 590 (2,897) | 646 (3,246) |
| South West | 231 (1,067) | 298 (1,293) | 319 (1,543) | 395 (1,841) | 402 (2,107) |
| West Midlands | 281 (1,132) | 316 (1,665) | 445 (2,131) | 473 (2,555) | 524 (2,951) |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 228 (983) | 303 (1,318) | 362 (1,648) | 337 (2,050) | 473 (2,475) |

*Note:*
There are small numbers in each strategic health authority in each of the last five years where it was not reported whether or not the patient was receiving antiretroviral therapy or whether the patient had ever previously developed an AIDS-defining illness.
*Source:*
Health Protection Agency: Annual survey of HIV-infected persons accessing care

### Alcoholic Drinks: Newcastle upon Tyne

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on tackling misuse of alcohol in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust area since the introduction of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England. [168301]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Renewed Alcohol Strategy, "Safe, Sensible, Social-Next Steps in the National Alcohol Strategy", was published on 5 June 2007. The strategy aims to:

focus future action on reducing the types of harm that are of most concern to the public;

reduce the crime and ill health caused by alcohol; and

increase the public's awareness of the risks associated with excessive consumption, and how to get help.

The North East Regional Alcohol Advisory Group is responsible for bringing together agencies and individuals from across the region with an interest in the alcohol agenda. It has so far examined the potentially harmful impact of alcohol misuse upon local communities and is taking steps to tackle key issues around the treatment, prevention and control of alcohol-related problems.

The "North East Alcohol Misuse Statement of Priorities", which was published in February 2007, will support and complement initiatives carried out at a local level and add value, and influence events, at a regional level.

### Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under the age of 18 years experienced serious injury as a consequence of excessive alcohol consumption in the latest period for which figures are available. [167987]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### Autism: Health Services

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will draw up national guidelines on the provision of services for people with autism. [169830]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** "Better services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder: A note clarifying current Government policy and describing good practice" was published on 16 November 2006. It clarifies the nature and intent of existing Government policy as it relates to adults with an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). A copy is available in the Library.

It is for local authorities to manage their priorities and decide how resources should be attributed, taking into consideration locally identified needs and assessments of individuals.

### Autism: Job Centre Plus

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he issues to local authorities to work with their local Job Centre Plus in order to meet the needs of adults with an autism spectrum disorder. [170768]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** "Better services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder: A note clarifying current Government policy and describing good practice" was published on 16 November 2006. It clarifies the nature and intent of existing Government policy as it relates to adults with an autistic spectrum disorder, and refers to community integration and employment support.

A copy of this is available in the Library.

### Bone Diseases: Medical Treatments

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects anti-TNF treatments to be available to patients with ankylosing spondylitis. [170145]

**Ann Keen:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) are currently producing a technology appraisal on the use of adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis. This appraisal is expected to be published in December 2007. Primary care trusts have a legal obligation to provide funding for treatments recommended by NICE within three months of the guidance being issued.

Funding for licensed treatments should not be withheld because of lack of guidance from NICE. In December 2006, we issued good practice guidance which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from NICE is not available at the time the treatment or technology first became available.

### Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to review its guidance on the *(a)* clinical assessment, *(b)* diagnosis and *(c)* management of myalgic encephalopathy, chronic fatigue syndrome. [170260]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its clinical guideline on the treatment of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis in August 2007. We have no plans to ask NICE to review that guidance at this time.

### Community Hospitals: Contracts

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the announcement on the second round of bidders for the Community Hospitals Fund will be made. [170288]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We announced a second wave of community hospitals and services on 11 April 2007. We are currently considering a third round of schemes and announcements will be made in due course.

### Connecting for Health Programme: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cash value of changes in the timetable for the delivery of the Connecting for Health programme in each financial year to date has been, broken down into *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital spending. [165707]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department's NHS Connecting for Health Agency is responsible both for ensuring delivery of the IT systems for the National Programme for Information Technology and for maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority. Budgets and outturn expenditure for all the agency's responsibilities are in the following table.

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | £ million 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Revenue* | | | |
| Initial budget | 380.0 | 623.0 | 540.0 |
| Outturn | 260.0 | 539.0 | 528.0 |
| Underspend | 120.0 | 84.0 | 12.0 |
| *Capital* | | | |
| Initial budget | 400.0 | 535.0 | 1055.0 |
| Outturn | 360.0 | 429.0 | 589.0 |
| Underspend | 40.0 | 106.0 | 466.0 |

**Departmental Alcoholic Drinks**

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164291]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** All public procurement procedures must comply with the EC Treaty. The key principles of the Treaty, from a public procurement point of view, are the free movement of goods and services, and non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality. This legislation is designed to ensure that all public procurement across the European Union is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory.

Regulation 30 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 lists the criteria that can be used to evaluate a tender where the main evaluation criterion is Most Economically Advantageous Tender (as opposed to price alone).

This means that the Department of Health cannot specify that it will only buy goods (e.g. wine) from a particular country or locality, as that would discriminate against producers from other EU member states.

However, the Government are committed to increase opportunities for small and local suppliers to tender for contracts, thus increasing competition and securing better value for money.

**Departmental Correspondence**

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167385]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members and Peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS. Information relating to 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready at the end of the calendar year.

Performance of the Department in replying to correspondence from members of the public can be found in its 2006 annual report.

**Departmental Cost-effectiveness**

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the value for money of his Department's turnaround programme in 2006-07. [167832]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The National Programme Office for Turnaround was established in February 2006 to provide expert and independent assistance in the development of robust and credible financial recovery plans for those organisations in particular financial difficulties.

The programme also provided specific methodologies to support the delivery of the plans, and to assist in the delivery and monitoring of progress against the plans.

In total, there were 104 organisations in the Turnaround Programme, who in 2005-06 posted a total aggregated deficit of £1,121 million.

By the end of the 2006-07 financial year when the Turnaround Programme came to a formal end, this aggregate deficit within the 104 organisations had reduced to £637 million.

This aggregate position is continuing to show improvements with the quarter 1 forecast outturn for the 104 organisations improving by a further £635 million to an aggregated £1.7 million deficit.

**Departmental Expenditure**

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the titles are of all internal guidance documents produced within his Department on procedures relating to the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. [162245]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As usual during a spending review, the finance Directorate provided written and oral guidance to colleagues in the Department throughout the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. The process for CSR07 was also outlined to the Department's senior leadership team in a note entitled "Financial Planning and CSR2007".

**Departmental Foreign Workers**

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168107]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** A full identity and nationality check is carried out using documentary evidence prior to all appointments to the Department. A record of nationality is kept on individuals' hard-copy personnel files. The level of detail recorded on our Central Human Resources information system is not sufficient to answer this question and it would involve disproportionate costs to examine all relevant individual files.

**Departmental ICT**

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167228]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The manufacturers whose software is in use across the Department are:

Adobe;
Computer Associates;
IBM;
Microsoft;
Oracle;
Pointsec Mobile Technologies;
Winzip.

Other manufacturers whose software is used by subsections of the Department in support of key operation and business functions are:

Bluecoat;
BMC Software;
Citrix;
Compuware;
Designer Appliances;
Intergralis;
ISI;
MASS Information Systems;
Mercury UK;
Mindjet;
MSRA;
Nessoft LLC;
Nuance;
Quark;
Quest Software (UK);
Real Asset Management;
RIM;
SAS Sostware;
Sirsi;
Software Spectrum UK;
SPSS (UK);
Sun Microsystems;
Symantec;
Team Studio Europe;
VeriSign UK;
Veritas;
Vmware;
Webabacus;
Webtrends.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the special advisers in his Department are; what expertise each has; and what the cost of employing them was in the latest year for which figures are available. [163407]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement, given on 22 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 147 WS.

### Departmental Procurement

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list all private finance initiative deals under which his Department or the NHS has incurred additional costs as a result of the need to make changes to the service specifications in the contract after the contract had been signed; and what the *(a)* date of the change, *(b)* nature of the change and *(c)* additional costs incurred were in each case. [162234]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the reports of the House of Commons Health Select Committee "Public Expenditure on Health and Personal Social Services", HC26-i, where detailed information on increases in payments for private finance initiative schemes after contract signature is reported. These reports are available in the Library.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide a breakdown of his Department's plans for the allocation of the resources granted in the 2007 comprehensive spending review according to the categories in Figures A2 and A3 of his Department's 2007 departmental annual report for each financial year covered by the settlement. [165714]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Although high level figures for the 2007 spending review settlement have been agreed with HM Treasury, detailed allocations are still under discussion.

The information requested is due to be published in the spring of 2008.

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies; [165239]

(2) how much his Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167305]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In November 2007, there were 13.3 marketing staff and 2.25 branding staff in the Department's Communications Directorate.

Between November 2006 and October 2007 the total expenditure on Departmental staff working on marketing was £778.4 thousand and on branding £144.1 thousand.

Agencies receive their funding from the Department, however the specifics of how they discharge those funds within general public sector parameters is an operational matter for the agencies concerned. We therefore do not hold detail of agencies' spend of staff on these issues or numbers of full-time equivalents.

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167273]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department's Human Resources (HR) system has only recently begun to record people on secondment into the Department. Also the system only records the number of people on secondment at a particular time rather than the total number of different people over the course of a year.

As of 30 September 2007 there were 57.7 full-time equivalent staff seconded into the Department.

As of 30 September 2007 there were 93.9 full-time equivalent staff seconded out of the Department to other organisations.

Anecdotally, most secondments out of the Department are to national health service trusts, other health-related organisations or other Government Departments.

Work carried out to answer a previous Freedom of Information request suggested that virtually all secondees into the Department are from public sector organisations. Anecdotally, most of these are from NHS trusts or other health-related organisations.

The Departments HR System does not hold information on the length of secondments but these are typically for a period of up to two years.

Given the Department does not hold information on the duration of secondments it cannot provide information on their costs.

## Diseases: Eastern Region

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* HIV, *(b)* tuberculosis, *(c)* malaria and *(d)* hepatitis B were diagnosed in (i) the east of England and (ii) Suffolk in each of the last five years; and how many of these were in people not born in the UK. [167905]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is shown in the following tables.

*Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT), by place of birth 2002-06*

| | Place of birth | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | United Kingdom born | 72 | 79 | 84 | 99 | 103 |
| | Non-UK born | 364 | 422 | 424 | 332 | 284 |
| | Not known | 63 | 45 | 87 | 99 | 139 |
| Suffolk | UK born | <5 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 8 |
| | Non-UK born | 6 | 14 | 16 | 20 | 6 |
| | Not known | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |

*Notes:*
1. Cumulative data to the end of June 2007.
2. Table will include some records of the same individuals, which are unmatchable because of differences in information supplied.
3. Numbers will rise as further reports are received, particularly for recent years.
4. Where fewer than five cases were reported for an area, the table indicates the number of cases is reported as <5 rather than the actual number in order to reduce the risk of deductive disclosure—this is standard HPA policy.

*Source:*
Health Protection Agency (HPA)

*Tuberculosis case reports in the East of England SHA and Suffolk PCT, by place of birth, 2002-06*

| | Place of birth | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | UK born | 110 | 98 | 109 | 147 | 105 |
| | Non-UK born | 201 | 204 | 257 | 301 | 284 |
| | Not known | 41 | 26 | 29 | 35 | 59 |
| Suffolk | UK born | 8 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 8 |
| | Non-UK born | 10 | 5 | 13 | 15 | 9 |
| | Not known | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |

*Note:*
Where fewer than five cases were reported for an area, the table indicates the number of cases is reported as <5 rather than the actual number in order to reduce the risk of deductive disclosure—this is standard HPA policy.

*Source:*
Enhanced tuberculosis surveillance—HPA

*Imported malaria cases in East of England SHA and Suffolk PCT, by place of birth 2002-06*

| | Place of birth | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | UK born | 21 | 25 | 25 | 29 | 22 |
| | Non-UK born | 51 | 44 | 51 | 56 | 54 |
| | Not known | 58 | 61 | 57 | 72 | 90 |
| Suffolk | UK born | 5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| | Non-UK born | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| | Not known | 5 | 5 | <5 | <5 | 6 |

*Note:*
Where fewer than five cases were reported for an area, the table indicates the number of cases is reported as <5 rather than the actual number in order to reduce the risk of deductive disclosure—this is standard HPA policy.

*Source:*
HPA

*Laboratory confirmed cases of acute hepatitis B, East of England SHA, 1999-2003*

| | Number of cases |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 43 |
| 2000 | 56 |
| 2001 | 45 |
| 2002 | 61 |
| 2003 | 41 |

*Notes:*
1. In 2004, there was a substantial deterioration in the quality of acute hepatitis B reporting and data have not been available after 2003. The HPA is working to improve the quality of information on acute hepatitis B reporting and provisional data should be available in 2008.
2. Data by country of birth are not available for hepatitis B.

*Source:*
HPA

## Doctors: Housing

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS trusts have a statutory responsibility to provide accommodation for rent to junior doctors. [164579]

**Ann Keen:** No, the requirement for a junior doctor to reside in "accommodation supplied by the hospital approved for his general clinical training" came to an end from August 2007.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of removing free hospital-owned accommodation for junior doctors on meeting the requirements of the EU working time directive. [164580]

**Ann Keen:** We have no information to indicate that removing free hospital-owned accommodation for doctors in training affects meeting the European working time directive (EWTD) requirements. Modern working patterns no longer require doctors in training to be resident on-call.

Local national health service trusts are responsible for assessing the impact of the EWTD as part of their health and safety obligations. The Department of Health in England continues to work with the NHS and health professions to support local EWTD implementation, including sharing learning from pilot projects.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to NHS trusts on *(a)* contractual and *(b)* other obligations on junior doctors renting hospital-owned accommodation. [164581]

**Ann Keen:** NHS Employers communicated on "Accommodation for first year foundation trainees" in their NHS Workforce Bulletin issued to the NHS on 30 July 2007. This advised that maintenance of existing accommodation arrangements for Foundation House Officer Year 1 Doctors can continue until 1 August 2008 given that most will already have made a contractual commitment to that effect. This information has also been on NHS Employers' website since July at: www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-357.cfm.

It was not considered necessary to issue further guidance for doctors already covered by existing contractual provisions as the change to the Medical Act did not alter their situation in respect of tax or rental charges.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of rent charged by NHS trusts to junior doctors for hospital-owned accommodation. [164584]

**Ann Keen:** Accommodation charges are a matter for local determination and details of such are not collected or held centrally.

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts provide accommodation *(a)* free of charge and *(b)* on a rental basis for junior doctors. [164586]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not collect this information. Most trusts will have some accommodation stock for which they will charge, and it is unlikely that they will provide it at no cost to the doctor unless there is a contractual, statutory or service need. In such cases, arrangements to provide free accommodation will inevitably be subject to scrutiny to assess any tax liability on the benefit.

## Genetically Modified Food

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what controls the Government have put in place to prevent genetically modified food from entering the food chain through the use of animal feed that has been GM derived; and if he will make a statement; [169227]

(2) if he will take steps to investigate supermarkets' food labelling claims to ensure that GM-derived food is not marketed as GM free. [169228]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We are advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that genetically modified (GM) crops may be used in animal feed in the European Union provided they have been authorised and that a safety assessment forms a key part of the authorisation process. GM food is subject to a similar, rigorous, safety assessment before being permitted to enter the food chain.

The labelling requirements for GM food are set out in the directly applicable Regulations (EC) Nos. 1829/2003 (GM Food and Feed) and 1830/2003 (Traceability and Labelling of GM Organisms), the intention of which is to facilitate consumer choice. There is no requirement for food produced from animals fed on GM feed to be labelled as such, nor is there any provision for 'non-GM' and 'GM free' labelling. We are advised by the FSA that such labelling may, however, be used on a voluntary basis, as appropriate to the product concerned. The FSA has expressed the view that the use of the terms 'non-GM' and 'GM free' should mean that food labelled in this way is completely free from the use of GM technology.

Local authorities are responsible for enforcement of the legislation at retail level and checks for the presence of GM material in foods on the basis of sampling form part of their enforcement activities. Local authorities also carry out checks on documentation to ensure that the traceability requirements are being met. These enforcement activities play an important role in consumer protection.

## Health Centres: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to provide health centres which open seven days a week in each year between 2007-08 and 2010-11; and what the proposed locations of these centres are. [165715]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** On 10 October, the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) announced a £250 million access fund to deliver 100 new general practitioner (GP) practices in the 25 per cent. of primary care trusts (PCT) with poorest provision and 150 GP-led health centres across the country. The Department is now working with the national health service to determine the distribution of funds to support delivery of these new services. As set out in the "Our NHS, Our Future" Next Stage Review interim report we expect the health centres to be easily accessible to all members of the local population, though the precise locations will be determined by PCTs based on their local needs assessment.

## Health Education: Expenditure

**Mark Simmonds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated to public health awareness campaigns in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [164034]

**Dawn Primarolo** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The grid below outlines cost of departmental public health awareness campaign advertising in each year since 1997.

*DH public health advertising campaigns expenditure summary 1997-98 to 2006-07*

£ million

| Campaign | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alcohol (from 2006-07 DH contribution to campaign run jointly with HO) | — | — | — | — | — | 0.10 | 0.05 | 0.34 | 0.06 | 1.90 |
| Antibiotics | — | — | 0.91 | — | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.42 | — | 0.39 | — |
| Blood donation | 0.60 | 1.70 | 0.22 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carbon monoxide awareness | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.01 | — | — |
| CALM | — | — | 0.53 | — | — | 0.58 | 0.43 | 0.44 | 0.32 | — |
| Child immunisation | 0.62 | 0.86 | 2.62 | 0.94 | 1.05 | 1.01 | 2.07 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 1.97 |
| Children's health/pregnancy | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.05 | 0.40 | — | — |
| Drugs (DH contribution to campaign run jointly with HO) | — | — | 0.53 | 0.50 | — | 1.52 | 1.50 | 1.99 | 1.26 | 3.13 |
| Flu | 0.23 | 0.28 | 0.08 | 2.02 | 1.45 | 2.00 | 1.60 | 1.50 | 1.85 | 1.16 |
| Hepatitis C | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.15 | 0.70 | 1.28 | 0.53 |
| Immunisation | — | — | — | — | 0.67 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 0.35 | 2.80 |
| Mind Out / Mental Health | — | — | — | — | 0.13 | 0.16 | 0.95 | — | — | — |
| Maternal and infant nutrition/breastfeeding | — | — | — | — | — | 0.28 | 0.46 | 0.75 | 0.74 | 0.73 |
| National health service including nurse recruitment | 1.30 | 4.90 | 4.21 | 4.90 | 5.00 | 4.23 | 4.90 | 5.84 | 0.23 | — |
| NHS Direct | 0.12 | 0.78 | 1.24 | 0.21 | 1.08 | 0.58 | 0.75 | — | — | 0.32 |
| Organ donation | 0.02 | 0.77 | 0.47 | 0.43 | 0.18 | 0.22 | — | — | — | — |
| Pandemic flu preparedness (standby materials) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.57 |
| Prescription fraud | — | 0.38 | — | 1.35 | — | 0.30 | — | — | — | — |
| Promoting new NHS services (Caring in many ways) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.85 | 0.69 | — |
| Respiratory and hand hygiene | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Teenage pregnancy (from 2005-06 DH contribution to campaign run jointly with DCSF) | — | — | 0.39 | — | 2.00 | 1.60 | 2.00 | 0.77 | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| Sexual health[1] | — | — | — | — | 0.30 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 0.82 | 7.30 |
| Social care / worker recruitment | — | — | — | — | 0.83 | 1.24 | 4.62 | 2.14 | 2.44 | 2.69 |
| Smoking | — | — | 6.18 | 8.97 | 7.79 | 7.87 | 17.34 | 24.00 | 22.70 | 21.53 |
| TB awareness | — | — | — | — | 0.30 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 0.20 | — | — |
| Walk-in centres | — | — | — | 0.37 | 0.02 | 0.14 | 0.04 | 0.40 | — | — |
| Winter (Get the right treatment / ask about medicines day) | — | — | 1.02 | 2.03 | 0.16 | 0.50 | 1.87 | 0.99 | 0.98 | — |
| 5-a-Day | — | — | — | — | — | 0.50 | 0.48 | 1.03 | 0.90 | 0.92 |
| Elll | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 0.32 | 1.37 | — |

[1] Excludes HIV prevention work, public and contraception awareness work and the sexual health helpline.

## Health Services: Public Participation

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what further steps he proposes to take to ensure that the views of public and patient groups are taken into account in the conclusions of the Enhancing Confidence in Professional Healthcare Regulation sub-group; and if he will make a statement. [170083]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The report will be made available on the Department of Health's website, which includes mechanisms for people to directly feed in their views to the working groups.

Wider feedback will be invited as part of the National Advisory Group Meeting planned for spring 2008.

We are proposing to hold an event specifically for patient and public representatives in new year 2008. The purpose of this event would be to ensure that the views of patient and public representatives are invited across the range of issues raised in the programme set out in the White Paper, "Trust, Assurance and Safety".

## Health Services: Regulation

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account will be taken of the report from the Enhancing Confidence in Professional Healthcare Regulation sub-group during the drafting of *(a)* existing and *(b)* future section 60 orders under the Health Act 1999. [170082]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The report of the Enhancing Confidence in the Professional Regulators Working Group will be taken into account when preparing Section 60 Orders planned for the second half of 2008. We will also consider the implications of the report alongside other responses to the consultation on the Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2008, and to the forthcoming consultation on a further, similar Order covering professions where the regulation is devolved.

### Hospitals: Construction

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new hospital schemes have been *(a)* given the go-ahead by his Department, *(b)* opened and *(c)* cancelled in each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [162236]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information has been placed in the Library.

In preparing the answer to this parliamentary question, officials have discovered that the answer given on 9 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2288W, contained an error. The £250 million private finance initiative scheme at East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust which was cancelled in 2003 was mistakenly omitted from the answer.

### Human Embryo Experiments

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many human embryos were created specifically for the purposes of research in each year since the passage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990. [169603]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has informed me that data on the number of embryos created specifically for research purposes were not collected before 1999. Since then, the HFEA's register indicates that only two embryos were created specifically for research purposes.

### Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to include women between the ages of 18 and 26 years in the human papilloma virus vaccination programme; and if he will make a statement. [169364]

**Dawn Primarolo:** We are currently considering the advice received from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation on the effectiveness of a national vaccination programme for all women over the age of 18. However women not covered by the vaccination programme will still be invited to be screened routinely as part of the national cervical screening programme.

### Labelling: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with the brewery industry on alcohol warning labels required by different European Union states; and if he will make a statement; [166023]

(2) what plans his Department has to seek uniformity in alcohol warning labels across the European Union. [166021]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

We do not exclude the possibility of greater commonality of approach in future. It is unlikely that a consensus exists at present across the European Union (EU) on the content of consumer information related to health on alcohol labels. The United Kingdom prefers an approach which provides information to consumers on alcohol unit content and sensible daily consumption.

The Department's officials have discussed with the Wine and Spirits Trade Association formal notifications by Finland and Poland to the European Commission seeking to introduce legislation in each country requiring alcohol warning labels. The UK has proposed that common approaches to providing consumer information should be explored through the EU Alcohol and Health Forum, since that is part of the Forum's agreed remit.

### Liver Diseases: Alcoholic Drinks

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses there were of alcohol-related cirrhosis of the liver in those of *(a)* 18 to 25, *(b)* 26 to 35, *(c)* 36 to 45 and *(d)* over 45 years of age in (i) England and (ii) Devon Primary Care Trust area in each of the last five years. [168294]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The information requested is shown in the following table:

*Count of Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs) with a diagnosis of alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver in primary or secondary fields for England and Devon primary care trusts (PCTs) by age at start of episode, data for NHS hospitals England for 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| | Age | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *18-25* | *26-35* | *36-45* | *over 45* |
| *England* | | | | |
| 2005-06 | 57 | 814 | 3,365 | 15,109 |
| 2004-05 | 25 | 654 | 3,040 | 12,932 |
| 2003-04 | 39 | 555 | 2,707 | 10,882 |
| 2002-03 | 25 | 476 | 2,244 | 9,563 |
| 2001-02 | 17 | 433 | 2,037 | 8,047 |
| *Devon PCTs* | | | | |
| 2005-06 | — | — | 40 | 210 |
| 2004-05 | — | — | 23 | 186 |
| 2003-04 | — | — | 14 | 196 |

*Count of Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs) with a diagnosis of alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver in primary or secondary fields for England and Devon primary care trusts (PCTs) by age at start of episode, data for NHS hospitals England for 2001-02 to 2005-06*

| | Age | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *18-25* | *26-35* | *36-45* | *over 45* |
| 2002-03 | — | * | 7 | 110 |
| 2001-02 | — | — | 7 | 95 |

*Notes:*
*Low Numbers*
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). "—" represents zero.
*All Diagnoses count of episodes*
These figures represent a count of all FCE's where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14(7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record.
Diagnosis code used: K70.3 Alcoholic Cirrhosis of Liver.
*Assessing growth through time*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
*Data Quality*
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre for Health and Social Care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
*FCE*
A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
*Ungrossed Data*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
*Source:*
HES, The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.
Devon PCTs have need defined as the PCT responsible for the patient. This is derived from the general practitioner practice with which the patient is registered:
5CV South Hams and West Devon PCT
5FQ North Devon PCT
5FT East Devon PCT
5FV Mid Devon PCT

## Lung Cancer: Tarceva

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of different entitlements to Tarceva of patients in different parts of the UK on levels of care of patients in England and costs associated with that care; and if he will make a statement. [169521]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* Tarceva is licensed for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer whose cancer has continued to grow despite having chemotherapy. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is currently appraising Tarceva for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer. Final guidance is expected to be published April 2008. In the meantime, it will be for primary care trusts to decide whether to fund Tarceva for individual patients, taking into account the available evidence.

No assessment has been made of the effects of different entitlements to Tarceva of patients in different parts of the United Kingdom on levels of care of patients in England and costs associated with that care.

## Maternity Services

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 830W, on maternity services, how many midwife-led units were *(a)* situated alongside consultant-led units and *(b)* stand-alone units. [170002]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is as follows:

| *SHA* | *Number midwife-led units situated alongside consultant-led units* | *Number of stand-alone midwife-led units* |
|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 0 | 3 |
| East of England | 3 | 6 |
| London | 11 | 2 |
| North East | 1 | 5 |
| North West | 2 | 7 |
| South Central | 4 | 12 |
| South East Coast | 3 | 3 |
| South West | 4 | 17 |
| West Midlands | 3 | 7 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 2 | 6 |
| Total | 33 | 68 |

I regret that the information given in my answer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 830W, was incorrect. The correct information is in the following table.

| *Region* | *Number of consultant-led units* | *Number of midwife-led units* |
|---|---|---|
| East Midlands | 11 | 3 |
| East of England | 19 | 9 |
| London | 30 | 13 |
| North East | 12 | 6 |
| North West | 28 | 9 |
| South Central | 11 | 16 |
| South East Coastal | 16 | 6 |

| Region | Number of consultant-led units | Number of midwife-led units |
|---|---|---|
| South West | 16 | 21 |
| West Midlands | 19 | 10 |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 19 | 8 |
| England | 181 | 101 |

*Source:*
National statistics for maternity units are collected by trust, instead of by individual unit Therefore there are no regular data collections of the number of units. The information in the table is from an amalgamated list kept by the Department from the Dr. Foster Birth Guide questionnaire (conducted between July and September 2006), BirthChoiceUK and National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit The data in this list are known to be out of date, coming mainly from 2005-06. More up to date data will be available when the Healthcare Commission report on maternity services is released in January.

### Medical Treatments: Lasers

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department will begin its proposed consultation on deregulating of laser treatment. [170289]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Department continues to keep the regulation of independent health care services under review. It is currently considering regulatory changes to some of these services, and expects to publish a formal consultation shortly.

### Midwives: Peterborough District Hospital

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that pregnant women's options to choose to use the midwife-led unit at Peterborough district hospital are maintained and enhanced; and if he will make a statement. [169782]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure that the services they commission meet the needs of the populations that they serve, including maternity services.

The Department has developed a framework document, "Maternity matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service" which was published in April 2007. It describes a comprehensive programme of improving choice, access and continuity of care in maternity services.

### NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 288WA, on the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, if he will list all the citizen and patient representatives who have sat on the board of the Institute and, previously, the NHS Modernisation Agency, stating for each the *(a)* start date and *(b)* end date of their period for service. [169873]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Professor Tony Butterworth was appointed chair of the NHS Institute's Involvement Think Tank in June 2007 and at that point, assumed the role of citizen and patient representative on the board of the NHS Institute.

The Think Tank met for the first time in October of this year and meets again in February 2008.

The Modernisation Agency did not have a patient representative on its board during its existence.

### NHS: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will quantify the level of commitment required over the next Comprehensive Spending Review period in order to implement *(a)* the European Working Time Directive and *(b)* the NHS Connecting for Health programme as stated on page 17 of his Department's NHS Pay Review Body: Review for 2008, published on his Department's website on 2nd November 2007. [166451]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The level of commitment required to implement the European Working Time Directive will depend on local service needs and the nature of the solutions utilised to ensure continued high quality patient care.

The NHS Connecting for Heath Programme include both central funding and local expenditure to deliver better, safer care to patients, via new computer systems and services.

A total cost of £12.4 billon (at 2004-05 prices) was identified in the National Audit Office report (June 2006) for total spending on the programme over its lifetime. This includes the comprehensive spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to announce his response to the review commissioned by his Department of the market forces factor; and if he will make a statement. [166582]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) has been reviewing the current allocation formula. ACRA has requested additional time to finalise its work. Given the importance of getting the revenue allocation formula right, ACRA has been granted this extra time. Therefore, allocations for 2008-09, which will be published shortly, will not include the review of the market forces factor.

Once ACRA's work is complete, ACRA will make recommendations on proposed changes to the formula. Ministers will need to give due consideration to any proposed changes to the formula, as recommended by ACRA.

An announcement on ACRA's work and the revenue allocations to primary care trusts will be made as soon as is practically possible on completion of ACRA's work programme.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to Table 5 in his Department's memorandum to the Health Select Committee on Public Expenditure on Health and Personal Social Services 2006, for what reason his Department underspent its hospital, community and family health

services *(a)* non-cash and *(b)* near-cash budget in 2006-07; and if he will provide a break down of the underspend in each budget. [167837]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The figures provided to the Health Select Committee were based on in-year forecasts, and consistent with the figures published in the 2007 departmental report. The outturn position was published in the 2007 Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper.

The Department's financial plans for 2006-07 included an £800 million Department Unallocated Provision (DUP) for non-cash items—funds set aside for exceptional and unplanned items. The figures in the departmental report were based on a forecast hospital, community and family health services underspend of £681 million and a £6 million underspend on centrally held and managed services, leaving £687 million of the DUP unused.

The near-cash underspend of £180 million was the combined forecast underspend by the national health service and the central programme.

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to Table 57a in his Department's memorandum to the Health Select Committee on Public Expenditure on Health and Personal Social Services 2006, for what reason allocations in the Centrally Funded Initiatives and Special Services Allocation programme fell in 2006-07. [167838]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The 2004-05 and 2005-06 Centrally Funded Initiatives and Special Services Allocation (CFISSA) allocation figures reported in Table 57a of the Department's memorandum include substantial sums that were added to primary care trust baselines in 2006-07. These resources were therefore no longer included in the CFISSA programme for that year.

### NHS: Foreign Nationals

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foreign nationals received NHS treatment in each of the last three years; and what mechanisms his Department has in place to ensure that those that are required to pay for the treatment do so. [170307]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is not possible to provide the information requested. Successive Governments have not required the national health service to provide statistics on the number of foreign nationals seen, treated or charged under the provisions of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, nor any costs involved.

The charging regulations place a legal obligation on providers of NHS hospital services to establish whether patients are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom and, if not, whether they are exempt from charges under the provisions of the regulations or liable to pay for any treatment provided. The Department has provided comprehensive guidance on implementation of the charging regulations to help NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts to discharge their obligations under these regulations.

### NHS: PFI

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has paid in private finance initiative (PFI) charges in each of the last 10 years; and what estimated PFI charges the NHS is liable for in each of the next 10 years. [162865]

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent from his Department's resource budget on unitary charges under the private finance initiative for each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [162235]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Information has been placed in the Library, which gives details of private finance initiative schemes which have reached financial close.

### Palliative Care: Finance

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Government expects to publish its comprehensive end-of-life care strategy; and what the timescale is for the doubling of funding for palliative care. [170205]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** End of life care is one of the eight pathways that strategic health authorities are examining as part of the NHS Next Stage Review. The review is being led by local clinical pathway groups and has the potential to inform and strengthen the national strategy. Publication of the strategy will happen in parallel with publication of the Next Stage Review final report scheduled for summer 2008.

The manifesto commitment to double the investment in palliative care is being taken forward as part of the work to develop the End of Life Care Strategy.

### Pandemic Influenza

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his statement of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1350, on pandemic influenza, how many *(a)* poultry workers, *(b)* farm labourers and *(c)* related staff have been vaccinated for H5N1 since the outbreak of the virus was first discovered in Suffolk on 11 November. [169996]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 558W.

### Patient Choice Schemes

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on Choose and Book to date; and to which companies payments have been made in respect of Choose and Book. [164598]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Total payments to date to Atos Origin relating to the development, delivery and maintenance of choose and book total £85.1 million. This includes £39 million for the development and deployment of the core system by the supplier under the original core contract worth £64.5 million over five years. It also includes a further £46.1 million for approved additional services and functionality identified in the contract, the costs of which are within the budget for the original choose and book business case.

Choose and book is now being used for over 45 per cent. of referral activity from general practitioners to first out-patient appointments. Some 6.2 million bookings have been made to date.

### Pharmacy

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consultation procedures are followed for applications to open pharmacies within a primary care trust area; [167798]

(2) what guidance is given to primary care trusts on who they should consult when considering applications to open new pharmacies in an area; [167799]

(3) whether the NHS Review Panel consults *(a)* local residents, *(b)* local councillors and *(c)* hon. Members when considering appeals relating to applications for pharmacies to be opened in an area. [167816]

**Dawn Primarolo:** There are no consultation procedures when a pharmacy wishes to open premises. However, if a pharmacy wishes to provide national health service services, there are procedures under the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations (SI 2005/641) for notifying details of pharmaceutical applications, which vary according to the type of application received. Some, such as a minor relocation of existing premises, are decided administratively by the primary care trust (PCT) without prior notification while others are subject to quite extensive notification. The PCT therefore has quite a wide discretion as to which local interests it notifies. Those notified usually have 45 days to respond.

The Department has published extensive guidance for primary care trusts to support implementation of these regulations. The guidance is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4107573

Chapters 3 and 4 give information on notifying the details of pharmacy applications.

The Family Health Services Appeal Unit of the NHS Litigation Authority has been directed to deal with appeals against decisions of primary care trusts relating to pharmaceutical applications on behalf of the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson). The unit will notify appeal details concerning a new pharmacy to the applicant and to relevant primary care professionals and local representative groups who were originally notified of the application by the PCT and who made representations within the stipulated time. However, the unit is not required to notify local individuals who made representation.

### Prescriptions

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates since January 2007 his Department has had discussions with the Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority; and what the content was of such discussions. [170072]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department meets with the prescription pricing division of the Business Services Authority on a regular basis at which a range of operational issues are discussed.

### Prescriptions: Information and Communications Technology

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards determining how the different IT systems in use in England, Scotland and Wales will manage cross-border electronic prescriptions. [167783]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have chosen different approaches to the development of information technology support in their respective health services from those being delivered to the national health service in England. These reflect their own functional requirements and assessment of priorities to meet their own needs.

Paper prescriptions will continue to be available to patients in England who wish to have their prescriptions dispensed in one of the other home countries.

### Rehabilitation Centres

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residential drug treatment and rehabilitation centres there are in England and Wales; and how many have been closed in the last five years. [167635]

**Dawn Primarolo:** 118 residential drug treatment and rehabilitation centres are currently registered on the National Treatment Agency's online directory of residential rehabilitation services for England and Wales.

Although this is not a comprehensive list of residential rehabilitation services, it represents the vast majority of services commissioned by drug action teams and local authorities for substance misuse treatment.

Information on the number of residential drug treatment and rehabilitation centres that have been closed in the last five years is not collated centrally.

### Sex: Health Education

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent of the £50 million allocated to the sexual health advertising campaigns programme announced in 2004, broken down by campaign; and what plans his Department has made for further sexual health advertising campaigns. [163164]

**Dawn Primarolo:** This information is contained in the following table[1].

[1] The figures relate to the Condom Essential Wear campaign. They exclude HIV prevention work, public and contraception awareness work and the sexual health helpline.

| | *Campaign name* | *£ million* |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | Condom Essential Wear | 7.3 |
| 2007-08 | Condom Essential Wear | [1]4.7 |

[1] Identified spend so far this financial year.

We have also contributed an average of £2 million per annum in 2006-07 and 2007-08 to the Department for Children, Schools and Families for joint work on teenage pregnancy campaigns.

Plans for the continuation of the campaign in 2008-09 and beyond are currently being drawn up.

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of sexually transmitted diseases were diagnosed in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* type of disease. [169282]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Information on the diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in genitourinary clinics (GUM) is currently only available at strategic health authority (SHA) level. The total number of the five main STIs (gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis, anogenital herpes and warts) by SHA for the last five years will be placed in the Library.

In addition to the figures for those diagnosed with chlamydia in GUM clinics the total number of people who have been diagnosed with chlamydia within the National Chlamydia Screening Programme by primary care trust since 2003-04 when the programme was launched, has been placed in the Library.

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Health Education

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on information campaigns about sexually transmitted infections over the last five years. [163018]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Expenditure on sexual health information campaigns in England for the last five years is contained in the following table[1]:

[1] This includes funding for HIV prevention work (contracted out to the Terence Higgins Trust and the African HIV Policy Network), public education and contraception awareness (contracted out to the family planning association), the Sex Lottery and Condom Essential Wear campaigns and sexual health[1] helpline.[2] Contract for the Sexual Health Information Line, (formerly the National AIDS Helpline) is delivered as part of a contract which also includes Drinkline and Frank (substance misuse prevention).

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 6.600 |
| 2003-04 | 6.600 |
| 2004-05 | 6.600 |
| 2005-06 | 5.120 |
| 2006-07 | 11.25 |
| 2007-08 | [1]10.25 |

[1] Identified spend so far this financial year.

We have also contributed an average of £2 million per annum in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 to the Department for Children, Schools and Families for joint work on Teenage Pregnancy campaigns.

### Speech Impaired: Disability Aids

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* the Department for Work and Pensions on (i) funding for and (ii) provision of alternative and augmentative communication aids; and what (1) response he has made and (2) steps he has taken in response to the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report on the life chances of disabled people in relation to the provision of such aids. [168780]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The Department has not made any such estimates or assessments and has not issued guidance.

It is the responsibility of local health and social care organisations to prioritise and allocate funding for communication aids based on their assessment of the needs of their local populations. To support this process the Government recently announced, through the comprehensive spending review, that local authority funding will increase by £2.6 billion by 2010-11.

Recommendation 5.6 of the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People", focuses on the provision of community equipment, communication aids and wheelchairs for children. As part of the process of addressing this recommendation the Department launched the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services programme in June 2006.

In addition, the Department, is working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to support the Bercow Review. The Bercow Review is currently reviewing services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs with the aim of producing a report in the summer of 2008.

## TREASURY

### Alcoholic Drinks: Death

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths attributable to *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* illegal drugs there were in the UK in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust. [169360]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributable to *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* illegal drugs there were in the UK in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust. (169360)

The attached table provides the number of *(a)* deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause and *(b)* drug misuse deaths, in the United Kingdom, from 2001 to 2005 (the latest year available), and in English primary care organisations, from 2001 to 2006 and 2005 (the latest years available for alcohol-related and drug misuse deaths, respectively). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

## Capital Gains Tax

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate what the cost to the Exchequer would be of exempting from capital gains tax business owners who sell their businesses upon retirement up to the value of *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £200,000, *(c)* £300,000, *(d)* £400,000, *(e)* £500,000 and *(f)* £1,000,000 in 2008-09. [166350]

**Jane Kennedy:** The cost would depend on the scope of the relief and on taxpayer behaviour. Broad estimates are provided in the table as follows:

| *Exemption limit (£)* | *Annual reduction in CGT accruals (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 100,000 | 100 |
| 200,000 | 150 |
| 300,000 | 200 |
| 400,000 | 250 |
| 500,000 | 250 |
| 1,000,000 | 300 |

The initial impact on receipts would occur in the year after the introduction of the measure.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make an assessment of the likely effects of increasing the capital gains tax rate to 18 per cent. from April 2008 in relation to business assets held for at least two years on *(a)* long-term investment, *(b)* entrepreneurial risk-taking and *(c)* numbers of small businesses being established in England; [169097]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of equalising the capital gains tax rates of long-term business assets and personal investments in shares and property on *(a)* propensity to invest and *(b)* business optimism within the small business sector; and if he will make a statement; [169098]

(3) if he will reconsider his decision to increase the capital gains tax rate on business assets held for at least two years from 10 per cent. to 18 per cent. from April 2008; [169099]

(4) if he will retain the 10 per cent. taper relief on business assets held for at least two years. [169100]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government consider a range of factors when formulating tax policy and keep all aspects of tax policy under review.

The Government believe that it is right to simplify the capital gains tax rules and are working with interested groups to listen to their views on a number of issues. The Chancellor will report to Parliament on his final proposals in due course.

## Child Benefit

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance is provided to local benefit offices on the provision of the name of alternative claimants for child benefit to parents of the child concerned; and if he will make a statement. [164713]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs is responsible for the administration of child benefit. All information held or obtained by HMRC is treated as confidential under the terms of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005. As such child benefit office staff are not permitted to comment on or divulge any aspect of a child benefit claim with any person other than the claimant.

**Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many cases in each of the last 12 months the Commissioners for HM Revenue and Customs have made decisions concerning which claimant should receive child benefit, where there are multiple applicants; and if he will make a statement. [164715]

**Jane Kennedy:** The number of decisions made by the child benefit office in the last year concerning which claimant should receive child benefit where there have been applications made by more than one claimant (shared cases) in respect of the same child or children are shown in the table as follows:

| *Month and year* | *Number of decision made* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| November | 220 |
| December | 187 |
| *2007* | |
| January | 222 |
| February | 198 |
| March | 212 |
| April | 235 |
| May | 249 |
| June | 238 |
| July | 255 |
| August | 164 |
| September | 164 |
| October | 235 |

## Child Benefit: EC Nationals

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Government have paid in child benefit to A8 nationals in respect of children living abroad in the last 12 months; [167645]

(2) how many claims for guardian's allowance from migrants in respect of children living abroad were made in each of the last 12 months; and how much was paid against such claims in each of those months; [167653]

(3) how many claims for child benefit by nationals of EEA countries were made in respect of children living abroad in the last 12 months; [167732]

(4) how many claims for child benefit have been made by A8 nationals of each country of origin in respect of children living abroad in the last 12 months; [167733]

(5) what projections his Department has made of future trends in the numbers of child benefit claims made by A8 nationals in respect of children living abroad. [167736]

**Jane Kennedy:** At the end of September 2007, there were 17,794 A8 nationals receiving child benefit for a child or children living in another EEA member state, broken down by nationality as follows.

| *Country* | *Number of awards* |
|---|---|
| Czech Republic | 84 |
| Estonia | 7 |
| Hungary | 30 |
| Latvia | 167 |
| Lithuania | 397 |
| Poland | 16,286 |
| Slovakia | 821 |
| Slovenia | 2 |
| Total | 17,794 |

The other information requested is not available.

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will notify all those who may have been directly affected by the loss of personal data from the Child Benefit database. [168120]

**Jane Kennedy:** Dave Hartnett, HMRC's acting chairman, is writing to all affected customers, to reassure them that their child benefit payments will continue and to advise them of security precautions they may wish to take.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the HM Revenue and Customs official who posted two compact discs containing confidential child benefit information was authorised to access and download such information to disc. [168207]

**Jane Kennedy:** It would be inappropriate to comment on this issue as there is an ongoing Metropolitan Police Service investigation and an independent review of HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling led by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007_133_07.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child benefit claimants in each London borough are affected by the loss of bank details by HM Revenue and Customs; and if he will make a statement. [169313]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients, including those in London boroughs.

The Acting Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs is writing to all customers affected by the loss of child benefit data.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by local authority and parliamentary constituency are published as part of National Statistics and can be found in Table 2 of Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis which are available on HMRC's website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in each (i) London borough and (ii) Government region have had their personal details lost in the recent security breach at HM Revenue and Customs. [169316]

**Jane Kennedy:** The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients, including the London boroughs and Government regions.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by local authority and Government regions are published as part of National Statistics and can be found in Tables 1 a and 2 of Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis which are available on HMRC's website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

### Child Tax Credit: EU Nationals

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to measure the amount of child tax credit paid to A8 nationals in respect of children living abroad. [169505]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 210W.

### Child Trust Fund: North East Region

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the percentage of eligible parents who have opened a child trust fund in *(a)* Rotherham, *(b)* Sheffield, *(c)* Doncaster, *(d)* Barnsley, *(e)* Richmond-upon-Thames, *(f)* York and *(g)* Harrogate. [169709]

**Kitty Ussher:** Constituency and regional data on Child Trust Fund accounts, including for account-opening rates, was published on 24 October 2007 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm.

### Council of Economic Advisers

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made to the remit and membership of the Council of Economic Advisers since June 2007; who the members of the Council are; and to which pay band each is allocated. [169591]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 893W, 24 July 2007, column 1000W, and 16 July 2007, column 72W.

### Departmental Catering

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166642]

**Angela Eagle:** The report deposited in the House of Commons Library on 8 November 2007 gives the proportion of UK produce supplied to HM Treasury.

Based on this date, the relevant figures for imported products are:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| Beef | 60 |
| Pork | 60 |
| Lamb | 60 |
| Dairy products | [1] 20 |

[1] eggs, milk and cheese

### Departmental Complaints

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints about *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs were received from members of the public by his Department in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [164164]

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what records his Department holds of complaints received on services provided to the public by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs. [164773]

**Angela Eagle:** The number of complaints received by HM Revenue and Customs in 2006-07 is published in the Department's 2007 Annual Report. Information on complaints made to the Treasury is not held centrally.

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Justine Greening:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to his Department's annual efficiency savings targets, what savings were made by his Department in *(a)* salary and *(b)* administrative costs in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement; [170346]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of core Treasury's delivered efficiency savings in relation to *(a)* policy, funding and regulation—directorate baseline budgets, *(b)* policy, funding and regulation—strategic reserve and *(c)* programme for each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [170351]

**Angela Eagle:** HM Treasury Group publishes the progress against its efficiency targets in its spring annual report and accounts and autumn performance report. The 2007 autumn performance report will be published shortly.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions packages containing confidential data have been sent from his Department and its agencies without using registered or recorded delivery services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [168212]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available.

### Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169043]

**Angela Eagle:** The percentage of turnover of staff in HM Treasury and its agencies is as follows:

| *Department* | *Year* | *Percentage Turnover* |
|---|---|---|
| HM Treasury | 2006-07 | 14 |
| | 2005-06 | 14 |
| OGC Buying Solutions | 2006-07 | 7 |
| | 2005-06 | 14 |
| Debt Management Office | 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007 | 14 |
| | 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2006 | 13 |

### Departmental Recruitment

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165104]

**Angela Eagle:** Following the Age Discrimination Act, 2006, and in line with best practice, we do not ask applicants to disclose their age. We are therefore unable to provide information on the ages of people applying for jobs or who received interviews.

The following table provides the information requested from those applicants who were offered both permanent and temporary posts at HM Treasury in 2007.

| *Age of applicant* | *Applicants offered permanent job* | *Applicants offered temporary job* |
|---|---|---|
| 30-39 | 6 | 41 |
| 40-49 | 3 | 25 |
| 50-59 | 3 | 5 |
| 60-69 | 0 | 0 |

### Departments: Complaints

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1183W to the hon. Member for Fareham on Departments: complaints, if he will require HM Revenue and Customs to maintain records of complaints about them which they receive from members of the public. [168586]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have today given the hon. Members for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) and Fareham (Mr. Hoban) (UINs 164164 and 164773).

### Diesel Fuel: Prosecutions

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been prosecuted for illegal use or sale of red diesel in the last 12 months. [167569]

**Angela Eagle:** In the UK 11 people were prosecuted in the last year in relation to the laundering of red diesel and its onward sale to retail sites.

A further three people have been prosecuted in cases solely involving the detection of red diesel laundering plants.

These figures include persons charged, dealt with by information and summons and awaiting trial.

Criminal investigation and prosecution for hydrocarbon oils offences form only one part of HMRC's overall approach to tackling oils fraud, together with the investigation/prosecution of wider oils excise offences, combined with a strong regulatory control system and the civil penalties regime.

In the UK, for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 October 2007, 3,224 vehicles were detected running on rebated fuel. The majority involved red diesel. These cases are dealt with by seizure of the vehicle which can be restored on payment of a fee. This approach is consistent with HMRC's Oils Strategy, progress against which is detailed in the Annual Reports. Copies of the Annual Reports are available in the Library of the House.

### Elderly: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people resident in each London borough over the age of 65 years died during the winter months in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [169244]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people resident in each London borough over the age of 65 years died during the winter months in each year since 1997. (169244)

Figures for winter deaths are calculated using a definition of winter as a four-month period from December of one year to March of the next year. The table below provides the number of winter deaths of people resident in each London borough over the age of 65, for the years 1996/97 to 2005/06 (the latest available).

*Table 1: Winter deaths of persons over the age of 65[1], London boroughs[2], 1996-97 to 2005-06*

*Deaths (persons)*

| *London borough* | *1996-97* | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| City of London | 16 | 16 | 12 | 23 | 13 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 7 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 614 | 479 | 555 | 604 | 560 | 503 | 521 | 489 | 513 | 431 |
| Barnet | 1,100 | 942 | 962 | 1,049 | 825 | 940 | 825 | 796 | 830 | 751 |
| Bexley | 674 | 621 | 708 | 724 | 652 | 589 | 672 | 618 | 632 | 593 |
| Brent | 563 | 527 | 547 | 544 | 491 | 471 | 474 | 483 | 454 | 398 |
| Bromley | 1,063 | 873 | 1,039 | 1,001 | 915 | 824 | 909 | 883 | 836 | 817 |
| Camden | 489 | 463 | 441 | 474 | 394 | 394 | 369 | 403 | 393 | 320 |
| Croydon | 929 | 816 | 911 | 954 | 806 | 842 | 796 | 782 | 760 | 757 |
| Ealing | 792 | 693 | 742 | 742 | 617 | 636 | 627 | 603 | 630 | 544 |
| Enfield | 815 | 739 | 872 | 851 | 694 | 774 | 762 | 702 | 696 | 653 |
| Greenwich | 715 | 582 | 621 | 667 | 578 | 536 | 570 | 575 | 606 | 456 |
| Hackney | 412 | 373 | 431 | 432 | 339 | 303 | 348 | 300 | 300 | 342 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 396 | 324 | 349 | 352 | 311 | 291 | 314 | 250 | 298 | 256 |
| Haringey | 551 | 433 | 471 | 452 | 404 | 391 | 412 | 383 | 323 | 322 |
| Harrow | 601 | 566 | 597 | 593 | 498 | 498 | 496 | 465 | 517 | 464 |
| Havering | 859 | 662 | 803 | 869 | 711 | 757 | 805 | 771 | 775 | 696 |
| Hillingdon | 731 | 634 | 668 | 748 | 620 | 615 | 609 | 612 | 616 | 564 |
| Hounslow | 518 | 504 | 513 | 580 | 497 | 492 | 492 | 479 | 405 | 469 |
| Islington | 451 | 372 | 413 | 382 | 323 | 333 | 322 | 318 | 339 | 301 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 378 | 328 | 345 | 333 | 260 | 267 | 267 | 263 | 268 | 263 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 442 | 429 | 470 | 443 | 436 | 435 | 372 | 380 | 382 | 369 |
| Lambeth | 577 | 481 | 518 | 587 | 480 | 422 | 458 | 436 | 441 | 422 |
| Lewisham | 789 | 645 | 702 | 727 | 604 | 597 | 588 | 550 | 592 | 521 |
| Merton | 565 | 480 | 541 | 517 | 469 | 398 | 411 | 413 | 411 | 405 |
| Newham | 592 | 456 | 512 | 588 | 460 | 452 | 444 | 389 | 422 | 379 |
| Redbridge | 828 | 645 | 759 | 721 | 608 | 639 | 608 | 620 | 645 | 574 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 527 | 493 | 542 | 537 | 440 | 434 | 462 | 435 | 403 | 397 |
| Southwark | 617 | 519 | 539 | 593 | 521 | 459 | 465 | 458 | 463 | 377 |
| Sutton | 654 | 562 | 599 | 595 | 554 | 525 | 467 | 513 | 483 | 510 |
| Tower Hamlets | 494 | 383 | 413 | 429 | 357 | 357 | 340 | 304 | 316 | 350 |

*Table 1: Winter deaths of persons over the age of 65[1], London boroughs[2], 1996-97 to 2005-06*

| London borough | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | Deaths (persons) |
| Waltham Forest | 712 | 551 | 689 | 648 | 587 | 531 | 562 | 464 | 557 | 451 |
| Wandsworth | 819 | 679 | 679 | 700 | 612 | 592 | 544 | 523 | 576 | 534 |
| Westminster | 502 | 421 | 437 | 460 | 391 | 389 | 366 | 399 | 332 | 315 |

[1] Winter deaths are defined as those occurring in December of one year, plus those occurring in January to March of the following year.
[2] Using boundaries as of 2007 for all years.

## Employment

**Mr. Byers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of *(a)* men and *(b)* women of working age are in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employment in each local authority area. [170686]

**Kitty Ussher:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on full-time and part-time employment. (170686).

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the numbers of men of working age, working full-time and working part-time in each local authority in Great Britain. The table also shows these numbers as percentages of all men of working age in employment in the areas. Tables 2 and 3, show the same information, for women and all people respectively. A copy of the tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

## Excise Duties: Fuels

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of not keeping fuel duty in line with inflation in each year since 2000. [168981]

**Angela Eagle:** The cost to the Exchequer of all changes in fuel duty compared to increases in line with inflation can be found in the Financial Statement and Budget and pre-Budget reports for each year since 2000.

## First Solution Money Transfer

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken to *(a)* compensate former customers of the money transfer company First Solution and *(b)* establish a new regulatory framework for the operation of such companies. [169269]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Government sympathize with those affected by the closure of First Solution. The Companies Investigation Branch, within the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, is carrying out an examination of the facts. An agreement has been reached on the sale of the company's assets which, in the opinion of the official receiver, will provide the best possible outcome for its creditors. In the context of the agreement reached on the Payment Services Directive (PSD) in April 2007, the Government have committed to bring money transfer companies into regulation from November 2009. The Treasury will launch a consultation on the implementation of the PSD before the end of the year.

## Fuel: Excise Duties

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what fuel duty was payable on a litre of petrol in *(a)* January 1996, *(b)* January 1999, *(c)* January 2001, *(d)* January 2003, *(e)* January 2005 and *(f)* January 2007; [169587]

(2) what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the effect of an (i) increase and (ii) decrease in fuel duty on (A) food prices and (B) the cost of living; what recent representations he has received the cost of fuel; and if he will make a statement. [169588]

**Angela Eagle:** Details of the fuel duty payable on leaded, unleaded and ultra low sulphur petrol are published at:

www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil.

In taking taxation decisions as part of the Budget process the Government consider a range of factors including the impact on prices and any representations received. The increases in fuel duty announced in Budget 2007 were announced for environmental reasons, to fund public services and provide certainty alongside the other tax reforms in that Budget. They have been fully taken account of in Treasury inflation forecasts.

## Immigration: East of England

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of inward migration on *(a)* economic activity and *(b)* the labour market in (i) North West Cambridgeshire, (ii) Cambridgeshire and (iii) the East of England over the last 10 years. [169391]

**Kitty Ussher:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 December 2007:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what assessment has been made of the effect of inward migration on (a) economic activity and (b) the labour market in (i) North West Cambridgeshire, (ii) Cambridgeshire and (hi) the East of England over the last 10 years. (169391)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the main summary indicator of economic activity in the UK. Because data collection, estimation and reporting are not structured according to demographic groups, the national accounts framework does not however make it possible to identity the direct contribution of immigrants to the measured levels of economic activity.

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics for labour supply indicators for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The data for analysing migrants also come from the above surveys. The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women). This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

When interpreting these figures, it is important also to bear in mind that the LFS and APS are not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

The annual LFS and APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 14 November 2007, which are based on latest population estimates.

*Table 1: Economic activity status of working age[1] non-UK born people in the North West Cambridgeshire constituency*

*Thousand[2]*

| *12 months ending* | *Employment level* | *Unemployment level* | *Economically active* | *Non-UK born economically actives as percentage of all economically actives (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| February 2001 | 3 | [3] | 3 | 6 |
| February 2002 | 3 | [3] | 3 | 6 |
| February 2003 | 4 | [4] | 5 | 8 |
| February 2004 | 5 | [3] | 5 | 8 |
| March 2005 | 4 | [3] | 4 | 7 |
| March 2006 | 4 | [4] | 4 | 7 |
| December 2006 | 4 | [3] | 4 | 7 |

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59.
[2] Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.
[3] Sample size too small to provide estimate.
[4] Estimate less than 500.
*Notes:*
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS gives an undercount because: it excludes certain people who have not been resident in the UK for 6 months; it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent; it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc); it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months; microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
*Source:*
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

*Table 2: Economic activity status of working age[1] non-UK born people in Cambridgeshire*

*Thousand[2]*

| *12 months ending* | *Employment level* | *Unemployment level* | *Economically active* | *Non-UK born economically actives as percentage of all economically actives (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| February 2001 | 25 | 1 | 27 | 9 |
| February 2002 | 26 | 1 | 27 | 10 |
| February 2003 | 22 | [3] | 23 | 8 |
| February 2004 | 24 | 2 | 26 | 9 |
| March 2005 | 30 | 1 | 31 | 10 |
| March 2006 | 33 | 2 | 36 | 12 |
| December 2006 | 40 | 4 | 44 | 15 |

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59.
[2] Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.
[3] Sample size too small to provide estimate.
*Notes:*
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS gives an undercount because: it excludes certain people who have not been resident in the UK for 6 months; it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent; it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc); it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months; microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
*Source:*
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

*Table 3: Economic activity status of working age[1] non-UK born people in the East of England*

*Thousand[2]*

| *12 months ending* | *Employment level* | *Unemployment level* | *Economically active* | *Non-UK born economically actives as percentage of all economically actives (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| February 2001 | 173 | 7 | 180 | 7 |
| February 2002 | 194 | 8 | 203 | 8 |
| February 2003 | 192 | 11 | 202 | 8 |
| February 2004 | 189 | 15 | 204 | 8 |

*Table 3: Economic activity status of working age[1] non-UK born people in the East of England*

*Thousand[2]*

| *12 months ending* | *Employment level* | *Unemployment level* | *Economically active* | *Non-UK born economically actives as percentage of all economically actives (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| March 2005 | 212 | 10 | 222 | 8 |
| March 2006 | 236 | 14 | 251 | 9 |
| December 2006 | 262 | 18 | 280 | 10 |

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59.
[2] Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.
*Notes:*
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS gives an undercount because: it excludes certain people who have not been resident in the UK for 6 months; it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent; it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc); it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months; microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
*Source:*
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

## Insurance: Cancer

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints have been received by the Financial Ombudsman Service on the sale of *(a)* critical illness insurance for all types of breast cancer and *(b)* critical illness insurance for ductal carcinoma in situ. [169169]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) records complaint numbers in relation to product type. The FOS does not record data showing the breakdown of complaints received by both the product type and the type of illness that has given rise to the claim (and in turn the complaint) under the policy. The requested data are therefore unavailable.

In the last five years the FOS has received the following number of total complaints relating to critical illness insurance:

| | *[1]Number* |
|---|---|
| March 2007 | 680 |
| March 2006 | 799 |
| March 2005 | 717 |
| March 2004 | 582 |
| March 2003 | 492 |

[1]To year end

## Intergovernmental Conference

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 19-24, on the intergovernmental conference, and with reference to the answer of 15 December 2003, *Official Report*, column 674W, that three million British jobs are linked to trade with the EU, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the volume of goods and services exported to the UK by other EU states and *(b)* the returns received by other EU states on investments in the UK in each of the last two years; what proportion of gross domestic product each represented for each EU state; and what estimate he has made of the number of jobs in each state which were linked directly or indirectly to trade with the UK. [168706]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* Annual UK goods import volumes from the EU27 have grown by 13 per cent. on average over the last two years. Comparable import volumes of services figures are not available. A country specific breakdown is not available for import volumes to the UK. Using current price imports, the two biggest EU27 countries exporting to the UK in 2005 were Germany and France exporting €71.5 billion and €44.2 billion respectively, the country that exported the least to the UK is Estonia (€0.4 billion). The returns received by the EU27 on investments in the UK in 2006 were £89.8 billion. This was 1.4 per cent. of total EU27 (excluding the UK) GDP. This was up from £70.2 billion, 1.1 per cent. of EU27 GDP, in 2005. The estimate of jobs linked to trade with the EU is not available on a country-by-country basis.

## Maternal Mortality: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many maternity deaths there were in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [169569]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many maternity deaths there were in Suffolk in each of the last five years. (169569)

There was only one death where pregnancy or childbirth was the underlying cause[1], in Suffolk county[2], in the years 2002 to 20063 (the latest year available). This was in 2004.

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes 000-099 (pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium). Deaths were included where one of these causes was the underlying cause of death.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

## Migrant Workers: East of England

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of migrant workers in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* the UK in each of the last five years. [169392]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of migrant workers there were in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* the UK in each of the last five years. (169392)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on employment for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The data for analysing migrant workers also come from the above surveys. The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This is the basis on which this PQ has been answered.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the APS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

The LFS and APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 14 November 2007, which are based on latest population estimates.

Table 1, attached, shows the numbers of working age in employment who were not born in the UK and were resident in the North West Cambridgeshire constituency, for the twelve month periods ending in February 2003 and February 2004, from the annual LFS, and for the twelve month periods ending in March 2005, March 2006 and December 2006 from the APS (the January to December 2006 APS dataset is the most recent for which information on country of birth is currently available). The table also shows the numbers of non-UK born persons in employment as percentages of all persons of working age in employment, in the area. Tables 2, 3 and 4 show the same information for Cambridgeshire, the East of England Government Office Region, and the UK, respectively.

As these estimates are from a sample survey they are subject to margins of uncertainty. In particular the estimates for North West Cambridgeshire, and Cambridgeshire will be based on small sample sizes. Changes over time should be treated with particular caution.

*Table 1: Number of non-UK born persons of working age[1] in employment in the North West Cambridgeshire constituency*

| *12 months ending* | *Employment level[2] (thousand)* | *Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment* |
|---|---|---|
| February 2003 | 4 | 8 |
| February 2004 | 5 | 8 |
| March 2005 | 4 | 7 |
| March 2006 | 4 | 6 |
| December 2006 | 4 | 7 |

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59
[2] Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS gives an undercount because:
it excludes certain people who have not been resident in the UK for 6 months.
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).
it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.
microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
*Source:*
Annual Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

*Table 2: Number of non-UK born persons of working age[1] in employment in Cambridgeshire*

| *12 months ending* | *Employment level[2] (thousand)* | *Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment* |
|---|---|---|
| February 2003 | 22 | 8 |
| February 2004 | 24 | 9 |
| March 2005 | 30 | 10 |
| March 2006 | 33 | 12 |
| December 2006 | 40 | 14 |

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59
[2] Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS gives an undercount because
it excludes certain people who have not been resident in the UK for 6 months.
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).
it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.
microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
*Source:*
Annual Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

*Table 3: Number of non-UK born persons of working age[1] in employment in the East of England*

| *12 months ending* | *Employment level[2] (thousand)* | *Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment* |
|---|---|---|
| February 2003 | 192 | 7 |
| February 2004 | 189 | 7 |
| March 2005 | 212 | 8 |

*Table 3: Number of non-UK born persons of working age[1] in employment in the East of England*

| 12 months ending | Employment level[2] (thousand) | Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment |
|---|---|---|
| March 2006 | 236 | 9 |
| December 2006 | 262 | 10 |

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59
[2] Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS gives an undercount because:
it excludes certain people who have not been resident in the UK for 6 months.
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).
it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.
microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
*Source:*
Annual Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

*Table 4: Number of non-UK born persons of working age[1] in employment in the UK*

| 12 months ending | Employment level[2] (thousand) | Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment |
|---|---|---|
| February 2003 | 2,335 | 9 |
| February 2004 | 2,462 | 9 |
| March 2005 | 2,625 | 10 |
| March 2006 | 2,788 | 10 |
| December 2006 | 3,018 | 11 |

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59
[2] Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS gives an undercount because :
it excludes certain people who have not been resident in the UK for 6 months.
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).
it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.
microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
*Source:*
Annual Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

## Minimum Wage: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in each London borough were paid less than the minimum wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [169241]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people in each London borough were paid less than the minimum wage in the latest period for which figures are available. (169241)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid below the national minimum wage by London borough are not available. However, I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage by Government Office Region.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

*Estimates of UK jobs paid below the national minimum wage by Government Office Region in 2007*

| Government Office Region | Thousands | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| North East | 16 | 2 |
| North West (including Merseyside) | 32 | 1 |
| Yorks and Humber | 24 | 1 |
| East Midlands | 25 | 1 |
| West Midlands | 26 | 1 |
| Eastern | 27 | 1 |
| London | 23 | 1 |
| South East | 32 | 1 |
| South West | 25 | 1 |
| Wales | 17 | 2 |

*Estimates of UK jobs paid below the national minimum wage by Government Office Region in 2007*

| Government Office Region | Thousands | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Scotland | 30 | 1 |
| Northern Ireland | 15 | 2 |
| All | 292 | 1 |

*Source:*
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

## National Insurance Contributions: Females

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many women have paid national insurance at the reduced rate for married women in each of the last 10 years. [170003]

**Jane Kennedy:** The number of women who paid reduced rate contributions since 1997-98 can be found from the Lifetime Labour Market Data Tabulation Tool available at the Department for Work and Pension's website at the following link.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Information for earlier years can be found in table CQY 90 "Number of women who paid any Class 1 National Insurance Contributions at the Reduced Rate during the tax year by type of contribution paid". This table can be found at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/dsu/contsandqualify/Conts_and_Qual_Years_tables05.xls

## Peterborough District Hospital: Childbirth

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many live births there were at Peterborough District Hospital in each month since May 2004; and if he will make a statement. [169527]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 3 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question about how many births there were in Peterborough District Hospital in each month since May 2004. I am replying in her absence. (169527)

Figures on live births in hospitals are available from birth registration information. The attached table shows the figures requested for 2004 and 2005, for Peterborough District Hospital Maternity Unit. Data for 2006 will be available after the release of Birth Statistics, Series FM1 on 13th December.

*Live births in Peterborough District Hospital by month of birth, May 2004 to December 2005*

| | Live births |
|---|---|
| May 2004 | 285 |
| June 2004 | 308 |
| July 2004 | 307 |
| August 2004 | 289 |
| September 2004 | 296 |
| October 2004 | 325 |
| November 2004 | 290 |
| December 2004 | 278 |
| January 2005 | 325 |
| February 2005 | 257 |
| March 2005 | 306 |
| April 2005 | 271 |
| May 2005 | 283 |
| June 2005 | 272 |
| July 2005 | 304 |
| August 2005 | 309 |
| September 2005 | 307 |
| October 2005 | 282 |
| November 2005 | 275 |
| December 2005 | 283 |

## Political Parties: Finance

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax is paid by a *(a)* recipient of money then donated to a political party and *(b)* donor of money to employees which is then spent as a political donation. [169417]

**Jane Kennedy:** As with all financial transactions, the tax treatment depends upon the facts of the particular case.

## Population

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population densities are expected to be of *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland on the basis of the change in population forecast by the Government Actuary Department and the Office for National Statistics in 2031; what the respective population densities are currently; and if he will rank the UK in terms of the 2007 population density of each EU member state, giving the population density for each member state. [169303]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 December 2007:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what the population densities are expected to be of (a) the UK, (b) England, (c) Scotland, (d) Wales and (e) Northern Ireland on the basis of the change in population forecast by the Office for National Statistics in 2031; what the respective population densities are currently; and the rank of the UK in terms of the 2007 population density of each EU member state, giving the population density for each member state. (169303)

The latest comparable information on population densities for EU member states relates to 2005. It is provided in Table A.

Actual and projected densities for the four countries of the UK are provided in Table B. The latest actual data relates to 2006. Figures are also given for 2005 to provide comparability with Table A.

*Table A: Population density of each EU member state[1], 2005*

| | Country | persons/sq km Density |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Malta | 1,274 |
| 2 | Netherlands | 393 |
| 3 | Belgium | 341 |
| 4 | United Kingdom | 248 |
| 5 | Germany | 232 |
| 6 | Italy | 195 |
| 7 | Luxembourg | 177 |
| 8 | Czech Republic | 129 |
| 9 | Denmark | 126 |
| 10 | Poland | 118 |
| 11 | Portugal | 114 |
| 12 | France | 111 |
| 13 | Slovakia | 110 |
| 14 | Hungary | 108 |
| 15 | Austria | 99 |
| 16 | Slovenia | 99 |
| 17 | Romania | 91 |
| 18 | Cyprus | 90 |
| 19 | Spain | 86 |
| 20 | Greece | 84 |
| 21 | Bulgaria | 70 |
| 22 | Ireland | 59 |
| 23 | Lithuania | 52 |
| 24 | Latvia | 36 |
| 25 | Estonia | 30 |
| 26 | Sweden | 20 |
| 27 | Finland | 16 |

[1] Table includes Bulgaria and Romania although they were not members of the EU in 2005.

*Source:*
World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision (United Nations).

*Table B: Actual and projected population density of UK and constituent countries, 2005, 2006 and 2031*

| | 2005 | 2006 | persons/sq km 2031 |
|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | 248 | 250 | 293 |
| England | 387 | 390 | 464 |
| Wales | 142 | 143 | 159 |
| Scotland | 65 | 66 | 69 |
| Northern Ireland | 127 | 128 | 147 |

*Source:*
2005 and 2006 estimates and 2006-based projections, ONS.

## Population: Immigrants

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the Office of National Statistics UK population forecast of 71 million by the year 2031 is attributable to a net inward flow of migrants. [169089]

**Kitty Ussher:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 December 2007:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what proportion of the Office for National Statistics UK population forecast of 71 million by the year 2031 is attributable to a net inward flow of migrants. (169089)

The information requested is available at:

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population/2006/methodology/mignote.asp

## Professions: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of people in each London borough were classified as *(a)* professionals and *(b)* skilled workers in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [169243]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of people in each London borough are classified as *(a)* professionals and *(b)* skilled workers. (169243)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The table attached shows the percentage of people resident in each London borough who are employed in professional and skilled trades occupations for the 12-month period ending March 2007.

Professional and skilled workers are classified using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2000 for Professional Occupations and Skilled Trades Occupations respectively.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

*People employed in professional and skilled trades occupations as a percentage of all in employment: London boroughs*

Percentage

| | 12 months ending March 2007 | |
|---|---|---|
| *London borough* | *Professional occupations* | *Skilled trades occupations* |
| City of London | [1] | [1] |
| Barking and Dagenham | 5 | 12 |
| Barnet | 23 | 9 |
| Bexley | 10 | 9 |
| Brent | 17 | 10 |
| Bromley | 20 | 7 |
| Camden | 21 | 5 |
| Croydon | 11 | 10 |
| Ealing | 15 | 7 |
| Enfield | 14 | 5 |
| Greenwich | 18 | 6 |
| Hackney | 17 | 9 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 19 | 4 |
| Haringey | 16 | 11 |
| Harrow | 15 | 9 |
| Havering | 9 | 12 |
| Hillingdon | 11 | 8 |
| Hounslow | 15 | 7 |
| Islington | 22 | 7 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 18 | 6 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 20 | 7 |
| Lambeth | 19 | 8 |
| Lewisham | 13 | 6 |
| Merton | 22 | 7 |
| Newham | 10 | 12 |
| Redbridge | 22 | 11 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 20 | 5 |
| Southwark | 16 | 6 |
| Sutton | 13 | 9 |
| Tower Hamlets | 18 | 7 |
| Waltham Forest | 13 | 8 |
| Wands worth | 24 | 6 |
| Westminster | 22 | 4 |

[1] Sample size too small to provide estimates.
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
*Source:*
Annual Population Survey

## Revenue and Customs: Personal Records

**Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations and agencies have access to personal tax or benefit data held by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC); and which organisations and agencies were provided with such information by HMRC in each of the last five years. [167624]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC may only disclose information which it holds in accordance with the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005. Most transfers of data take place under statutory gateways which specify circumstances in which HMRC may disclose such information. All disclosures must be compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced a review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

## Service Industries: Greater London

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of people in each London borough are employed in *(a)* service industries and *(b)* manufacturing industries. [169242]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question

asking what percentage of people in each London borough are employed in *(a)* service industries and *(b)* manufacturing industries. (169242).

The estimated percentages of employee jobs in service industries and manufacturing industries for each London borough in 2005 are shown in the following table. These estimates are from the annual business inquiry (ABI). They do not include self-employment jobs. As with any sample survey, estimates from the ABI are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Alternative estimates are available in terms of employed residents, from the annual population survey, a survey of households. However the breakdown by industry suffers from reporting error caused by individuals giving inaccurate information about the organisations for which they work.

*Percentage of employee jobs in service and manufacturing industries in London boroughs, 2005*

| | *Services* | *Manufacturing* |
|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 77 | 18 |
| Barnet | 93 | 3 |
| Bexley | 85 | 9 |
| Brent | 84 | 11 |
| Bromley | 91 | 4 |
| Camden | 93 | 4 |
| City of London | 99 | 1 |
| Croydon | 91 | 4 |
| Ealing | 87 | 9 |
| Enfield | 88 | 7 |
| Greenwich | 90 | 6 |
| Hackney | 90 | 7 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 93 | 6 |
| Haringey | 89 | 7 |
| Harrow | 87 | 7 |
| Havering | 87 | 6 |
| Hillingdon | 91 | 4 |
| Hounslow | 92 | 4 |
| Islington | 92 | 6 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 95 | 4 |
| Kingston-upon-Thames | 92 | 5 |
| Lambeth | 94 | 3 |
| Lewisham | 92 | 4 |
| Merton | 85 | 8 |
| Newham | 88 | 7 |
| Redbridge | 90 | 4 |
| Richmond-upon-Thames | 92 | 5 |
| Southwark | 89 | 7 |
| Sutton | 86 | 6 |
| Tower Hamlets | 90 | 7 |
| Waltham Forest | 88 | 8 |
| Wandsworth | 92 | 5 |
| Westminster, City of | 96 | 3 |
| All London boroughs | 92 | 5 |

*Source:*
Annual Business Inquiry

### Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the health in pregnancy grant will be payable in respect of A8 nationals living outside the UK. [169507]

**Jane Kennedy:** The Government are introducing from April 2009 a one-off payment to expectant mothers, known as the Health in Pregnancy Grant, to help them during the important last weeks of pregnancy. Only women ordinarily resident in the UK will be able to claim the payment.

### State Retirement Pensions

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government plan to ring-fence the additional revenue his Department will receive as a consequence of bringing forward the introduction of an Upper Accruals Point for the State Second Pension for future pensions spending; and if he will make a statement. [169499]

**Kitty Ussher:** The announcement made in the 2007 pre-Budget report to bring forward the introduction of Upper Accruals Point for the State Second Pension (S2P) will lead to a reduction in the rebates paid in respect of employees earning above the 2007-08 value of the Upper Earnings Limit (UEL) who are contracted out of S2P. Those employees would have otherwise seen anomalous gains in their contracted out rebates and S2P benefits following the announcement at Budget 2007 to align the UEL for national insurance contributions with the higher rate threshold for income tax from 2009-10.

The reductions in the rebates result in an increase in national insurance contributions paid into the National Insurance Fund. The National Insurance Fund (NIF) is maintained under the control and management of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. It is run on a "pay-as-you-go" basis; current income, mainly from national insurance contributions, pays for current expenditure mostly on contributory benefits. The uses to which the NIF can be put are clearly specified in legislation, with the majority spent on state pensions.

### Taxation: Domicil

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many British citizens with the right of abode in the UK but domiciled overseas moved their tax affairs on shore and became UK residents for tax purposes in each year since 2000. [168615]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available.

### Unclaimed Savings and Insurance Policies

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to require insurance companies and banks to establish effective arrangements for the tracing of unclaimed savings and insurance policies. [170217]

**Kitty Ussher:** The Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill was introduced in the House of Lords on 7 November. As part of these proposals, the Government are clear that account holders retain the ongoing right to claim their money. Additionally, the Government believe that effective reuniting efforts should precede the introduction of any scheme. As

such, the Government welcome the joint co-operation of the British Bankers' Association, Building Societies Association and National Savings and Investments in developing a one-stop shop for customers seeking to trace lost accounts across all three sectors. The BBA announcement of 8 November set out the details of these initiatives, including the launch of the new facility in January 2008. The Government also welcome the commitment of individual banks and building societies to undertake proactive search activity throughout 2008.

In terms of insurance policies, insurers attempt to locate policyholders individually. Missing individuals' identities are also posted on the Unclaimed Assets Register so that they can be traced. Where it has not been possible to trace the holder, a policy remains live for an individual's expected lifetime.

### Video Games: Research

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 926W, on video games: research, which companies received funding through research and development units allocated by HM Revenue and Customs; and how much each company received. [168986]

**Angela Eagle:** The names of companies making research and development tax relief claims and the amount of relief they receive are confidential. There is a well established principle that such information may not be disclosed and I am therefore unable to provide the information requested.

### Welfare Tax Credits: EC Nationals

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many EU A8 nationals registered on the worker registration scheme and in receipt of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit (i) gave notice of a change of circumstances and (ii) gave notice of their departure from the UK within one year of being granted these credits in each year since the inception of the worker registration scheme; [169302]

(2) how many EU A8 nationals have received *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit in each year since the inception of the worker registration scheme; and what (i) the total expenditure on these credits for EU A8 nationals and (ii) the average amount of each credit received by successful EU A8 applicants was; [169304]

(3) how many EU A8 nationals registered on the worker registration scheme who have been granted *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit did not renew their application for these credits at the end of their first year of receipt of them in each year since the inception of the worker registration scheme. [169305]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]*: The information requested is not available.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes the UK has proposed to international support for political reform in Afghanistan, as referred to in the Prime Minister's Mansion House speech of 12 November. [166131]

**David Miliband:** Our embassy in Kabul will be building on its work to support Afghan central Government institutions by helping to develop local government administration. The newly-established Independent Directorate of Local Governance in the Office of the President has an ambitious agenda to rationalise structures and authorities of local governance and to support the roll-out of key reforms at the sub-national level.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK is proposing changes to the mandate of the UN Special Representative for Afghanistan. [166133]

**David Miliband:** The contract of the current Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Tom Koenigs, runs until February 2008. He has announced his intention to step down. Any change to the mandate of his successor is a decision for the UN Secretary-General. We and other partners are regularly in discussion with the UN about the role played in Afghanistan by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative.

### Bosnia: Nuclear Medicine Department Storage

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the theft of radiation generators from a nuclear medicine department storage in Banja Luka in the Entity of Republica Srpska in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [168446]

**David Miliband:** The police in the Republika Srpska have made it clear that there has been no theft of radiation generators in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Instead there has been a theft of 60 lead containers from the Banja Luka Institute for Nuclear Medicine. The police in the Republika Srpska have stated that this theft poses no danger to the public. The police believe that the lead was stolen for resale. The police in BiH, and Interpol, are investigating the theft.

### Bosnia: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements are in place to allow EUFOR to draw on the shared EU/NATO Operational Reserve Force in the event of deterioration of the security situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [170414]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The EU forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina Operation Plan agreed by EU member states makes provision for pre-identified contributing nations to maintain reserve units in their home

locations in readiness for rapid deployment in the event of deterioration of the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As the Operational Reserve Force is also designated to reinforce the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Kosovo Force (KFOR), close co-ordination is maintained at all times between the EU, NATO and contributing nations.

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the current presence of 2,500 EU troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina is sufficient to deal with any threats to the country's stability in the period prior to and after the end of the Kosovo final status talks. [170795]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The military advice is clear that the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina means current EU Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina troop levels are sufficient. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation has an operational reserve force consisting of three battalions for the Balkan theatre, should military commanders judge that reinforcements are necessary.

### Chad: Frontiers

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the Government have put forward for strengthening borders between Chad, the Central African Republic and Sudan. [168732]

**Meg Munn:** In response to the continuing security and humanitarian crisis in Chad, in September the UK co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1778, which authorises the deployment of an EU force (EUFOR) and a UN multidimensional mission (MINURCAT) to Chad. The force aims to contribute to the stabilisation of the regions in eastern Chad and north eastern Central African Republic which border Sudan. Improved security will facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and help create the conditions necessary for voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons. EUFOR and MINURCAT support the larger African Union/UN mission to Darfur, which is mandated to protect civilians and is in the process of being deployed.

Long-term peace and security in the region needs to be underpinned by a lasting political solution. The UK supports the agreement reached between President Deby and Chadian rebel groups on 25 October in Sirte, Libya and urges all parties to implement the ceasefire. The EU is also sponsoring a process of dialogue between President Deby and the political opposition forces in Chad, which should contribute to creating a more stable political environment in which to promote peace. The UK takes every opportunity to call on the governments of Chad and Sudan to fulfil their obligations under the Tripoli agreement, which calls for a ceasefire between Chad and Sudan, and an end to support for armed movements, which destabilise the region.

### Chad: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* personnel non-EU countries have pledged to the EU peacekeeping mission to Chad and the Central African Republic; [168731]

(2) what representations the Government have *(a)* made and *(b)* received on numbers of helicopters available for the EU peacekeeping mission to Chad and the Central African Republic; and if he will make a statement; [168734]

(3) what assessment he has made of whether the EU peacekeeping mission to Chad and the Central African Republic will be deployed by December; and if he will make a statement. [168735]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government strongly support the EU peacekeeping mission and are actively engaged in finding an effective and lasting solution to the wider problems faced in the Chad/Darfur region. The 'force generation' process for the EU military force (EUFOR) is currently under way. We have made clear to the EU and to partners bilaterally that, due to other operational commitments, the UK contribution to the force will not include helicopters. A number of non-EU member states have shown strong interest in participation, but there have been no formal offers of assistance to date. Progressive deployment will begin once force generation and other necessary preparations are complete—EUFOR is currently expected to reach its initial operating capacity in early 2008.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the Government have had with their European counterparts on the deployment of the EU peacekeeping mission to Chad and the Central African Republic; and if he will make a statement. [168733]

**Meg Munn:** On 15 October my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) which agreed the joint action on the deployment of the EU military operation in Chad and the Central African Republic (EUFOR) in support of a multidimensional UN presence. The UK strongly endorsed this proposed deployment. At the GAERC of 19 November, my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary and my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy) continued discussions with their counterparts on the planning and deployment of EUFOR.

The UK has continued to give strong support in the EU to ongoing planning and preparation for EUFOR, which will play a significant role in the international community's efforts to bring relief and stability to the region.

### China: Capital Punishment

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Chinese Government on its use of the death penalty. [168906]

**Meg Munn:** We regularly raise the death penalty with the Chinese government. We welcome the return of authority to the Supreme People's Court to review all death penalty sentences from 1 January 2008. We continue to urge China to adopt transparency on death penalty statistics and to reduce the scope of the death penalty in order to comply with Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). During his visit to China in August my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, urged China to ratify the ICCPR as soon as possible. The Director of Public Prosecutions also raised ICCPR and China's criminal justice system when he visited Beijing in September. The death penalty was discussed at the most recent round of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, held in Beijing on 17 October 2007, and also at the last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue, held in London on 5 February 2007.

### China: Human Rights

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the authorities of the People's Republic of China on the *(a)* continued detention and *(b)* nationality of Yoo Sang-joon. [166854]

**Meg Munn:** We are aware that Yoo Sang-joon is facing a criminal trial in Inner Mongolia for actions which appear to have been motivated by humanitarian concerns. We have not raised this case with the Chinese authorities. Mr. Yoo is a naturalised South Korean, whose nationality is recognised by the Chinese. He has received South Korean consular visits and we understand a South Korean consul will attend his trial, scheduled for 26 November. We will continue to monitor this case.

### CIC Material

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 214W, on CIC material, for what reason his Department wished to protect the process used by John Williams; and what the public interest was in releasing the information. [169881]

**Dr. Howells:** It is important, as a matter of principle that the space in which all officials draft is protected. However, on further consideration we concluded that this principle would not be undermined in this case if the information in the redaction were released.

### Cyprus

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made towards demining in Cyprus by *(a)* the Republic of Cyprus, *(b)* Turkey and *(c)* Turkish Cypriots; and if he will make a statement. [163627]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The latest report of the UN Secretary-General in June 2006 indicated that Nicosia had been declared landmine-free. The UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), on behalf of the Mine Action Centre, has been continuing discussions to identify additional mined areas and to agree on terms for their clearance. From the inception of the programme in October 2004, over 2.2 million square metres of land have been released, with 25 minefields cleared and 2,816 mines destroyed (1,320 anti-personnel and 1,496 anti-tank). 323,153 square metres of land have been released through survey activities since the last UNFICYP report. In December 2006, the EU confirmed, that an additional €4 million would be made available for Mine Action, bringing the total amount of EU funding to €9 million.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to *(a)* Turkey and *(b)* Turkish Cypriots on the return of Famagusta/Varosha; and if he will make a statement. [163796]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Over the years, Famagusta and the port of Famagusta have been the subject of a series of proposals for confidence building measures. A 2004 proposal from the Government of Cyprus linked preferential Turkish Cypriot trade with the EU through the port of Famagusta with the return of the closed city of Varosha. Although it has not been possible to agree a confidence building measure involving Varosha, we continue to encourage the parties to think creatively about all such symbolic aspects of the Cyprus problem. If it does not prove possible to address Varosha in isolation, it will undoubtedly have to be addressed as part of a comprehensive settlement.

Ministers and officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office hold discussions with their Turkish counterparts and Turkish Cypriot community leaders on a range of issues relating to the current situation in Cyprus, including the issues relating to the return of Famagusta/Varosha. Ultimately, we believe that the ongoing division of the island, and the issues attached to it, can only be resolved through a comprehensive settlement brokered by the UN. We continue to urge both sides to show the political will and flexibility to bridge the gap between words and deeds, and to engage constructively with the UN's efforts to broker a comprehensive and durable settlement.

**Ms Abbott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the UK and Turkey on existing processes aimed at resolving the current situation in Cyprus; and whether he has received representations from other EU member states on the matter. [165933]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK/Turkey Strategic Partnership (formerly UK/ Turkey Action Plan) is a formalised dialogue that has existed between the UK and Turkey since 2004.

The UK/Turkey Agreement reflects our longstanding commitment to helping secure a lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem. We continue to support wholeheartedly the 8 July 2006 agreement between the two leaders. In support, the UK/Turkey Strategic Partnership includes a section reiterating

longstanding commitments to bring the Turkish Cypriot community closer to Europe, which we believe will facilitate any future Cypriot settlement agreement by reducing economic disparities and putting market forces at the service of a settlement.

Both Greece and the Republic of Cyprus have made representations over the Agreement. Dialogue with both the Republic of Cyprus and Greece show that, while we share the same strategic objective of reunifying Cyprus, there are honestly held differences of opinion on how to achieve this. We continue to discuss all such differences of opinion, with the ultimate objective of achieving a Cyprus settlement acceptable to all Cypriots. The UK shares many vital interests with both countries, and its bilateral relations with both countries remain, as ever, very important.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the factors affecting the use of telecommunications across the green line in Cyprus. [163220]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** It is clear that the separate telecommunications systems that exist on either side of the green line inhibit cost-effective communication between north and south. The Government would welcome any initiatives that would enhance communication between the two communities.

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the scale of cross-green line trade and *(b)* obstacles to growth of cross-green line trade in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [163221]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The European Commission's 2007 report on the green line regulation (GLR), available at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2007/com2007_0553en01.pdf

sets out in detail the scale of green line trade, and existing obstacles. In the period May 2006 to April 2007 the value of goods traded across the green line was €3,380,805, compared to a figure of €1,734,770 in the previous reporting period.

Some of the obstacles cited in the report include the limited type and value of goods permitted under the GLR and political pressure to prevent the development of trade. We would support measures to expand the GLR, thereby putting market forces at the service of a comprehensive settlement.

### Dalits: Human Rights

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will urge the European Union to raise the human rights situation of Dalits during the next round of the ad hoc EU-India human rights dialogue; and if he will make a statement. [164695]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* We continue to play an active role in the regular EU-India human rights dialogue.

Under the UK presidency of the EU in 2005, the EU held a first human rights dialogue with India. The discussions covered a range of issues relating to minorities, including the Dalits, and minority rights. We continued discussions in last year's human rights dialogue. Discussions among EU partners are currently under way on what human rights issues should feature on the agenda for the next human rights dialogue, although a date for the dialogue has not yet been agreed. The UK will continue to work with the EU on a range of issues relating to minorities and their rights, including the Dalits.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168600]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws. [168088]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and

rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations. [168254]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disk; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of (i) his Department and (ii) his Department's agencies has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168274]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168476]

**Meg Munn:** I refer my right hon. Friend to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years. [168814]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many breaches of data protection security there were in his Department or his Department's Agencies in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168840]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental ICT

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many attempted hacking or suspected cyber attacks or other malicious computer security breaches were committed against his Department's computer systems in each of the last three years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [167984]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168748]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Land

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what land surplus to his Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168856]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is in the process of selling 0.9 acres of land in Tallinn, Estonia. We keep the estate under constant review and are preparing to sell 1.7 acres of land in Yaounde, Cameroon and 1.8 acres of land in Skopje, Macedonia. We are not currently offering any land to lease, and have no plans to do so.

### Diplomatic Services: Children

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on *(a)* travel, *(b)* school fees and *(c)* other costs in respect of the education in the UK of children of his Department's staff in overseas posts in each of the last five years, broken down by school; what the criteria are for eligibility for this facility; how many (i) children and (ii) members of staff it applied to in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [168451]

**Meg Munn:** It is a condition of their employment that members of the diplomatic service must be prepared to serve anywhere in the world at any time during their career, sometimes at very short notice. Those with children also have a legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive a full-time education from the age of five years. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) helps staff meet these potentially conflicting obligations by providing financial support for their children's education in the UK (or overseas, where free state schooling in English is not available locally).

With staff and families having to move at regular intervals, sometimes at times which may disrupt schooling for their children, and education facilities at posts overseas varying, continuity of education can prove problematic particularly during the important exam years. The FCO addresses this problem by providing a continuity of education allowance to enable children to board at schools in the UK, while their parents remain subject to the world-wide mobility obligation.

The amounts we have spent each year on financial support for the costs of private education in the UK and travel for visits by children to their parents during school holidays are set out in the following table. We have also listed the number of staff in receipt of the allowance (where known) and the number of children who have benefited.

Children covered by the allowance currently attend 180 different schools in the UK. We are not able to break the figures down by individual school without incurring disproportionate cost.

| | *[1]Continuity of education allowance (£ million)* | *Travel by children at boarding schools (£)* | *Number of children covered* | *Number of staff* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 9.9 | 728,587 | 525 | n/a |
| 2003-04 | 10.3 | 846,082 | 545 | n/a |
| 2004-05 | 10.9 | 768,592 | 535 | n/a |
| 2005-06 | 11.8 | 789,992 | 540 | 342 |
| 2006-07 | 13.0 | 833,652 | 540 | 338 |

[1]This figure includes tax and national insurance contributions

### Entry Clearances: Foreign Workers

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to review the efficacy of the outsourcing of visa applications to commercial organisations on a regular basis over the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [168767]

**Dr. Howells:** The contract to outsource the visa application process to Commercial Partners, which was signed on 27 February 2007, is regularly reviewed at various levels of detail.

Our Commercial Partners—Computer Sciences Corporation and VFS Global are reviewed on a monthly basis against a core set of service levels which monitor performance against key service delivery criteria. There is an annual review of Commercial Partner performance and a governance structure which monitors performance. Issues and risks are escalated at a local, country, regional and central level to a number of formal review mechanisms. There are also formal review bodies attended by senior representatives from the Commercial Partner organisations and UKvisas. The Project Executive Committee meets on a monthly basis and focuses on monitoring key performance indicators. The Partnership Board meets on a quarterly basis and is responsible for taking key strategic decisions and managing the business relationship.

### EU Reform: Treaties

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has *(a)* made and *(b)* received on the normal period of office of the President of the European Council envisaged in the draft EU Reform Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [166987]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government support a full-time President of the European Council to replace the current system where the President of the European Council changes every six months. The President of the European Council will take office for a term of two and a half years, renewable once. He or she will be chosen by heads of state and government and will be accountable to them. Having a full-time chair of the European Council will bring greater coherence and consistency to the EU's action, and will give member states greater capacity to give direction and momentum to the EU's agenda.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has *(a)* made and *(b)* received on the proposed responsibilities, duties and powers of the President of the European Council envisaged in the draft EU Reform Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [166988]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government support a full-time President of the European Council to replace the current system where the President of the European Council changes every six months. Having a full-time chair of the European Council will bring greater coherence and consistency to the EU's actions; and will give member states greater capacity to give direction and momentum to the EU's agenda.

**Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has *(a)* made and *(b)* received on the procedure for nomination of the President of the European Council envisaged in the draft EU Reform Treaty; and if he will make a statement. [166989]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government support a full-time President of the European Council, who will replace the current President of the European Council, who changes every six months. He or she will be chosen by Heads of State and Government by qualified majority, and will be accountable to them. Having a full-time chair of the European Council will bring greater coherence and consistency to the EU's actions; and will give member states greater capacity to give direction and momentum to the EU's agenda.

### Group of Eight: HIV Infection

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with his counterpart in Japan to ensure that HIV/AIDS is included on the Japanese agenda for the forthcoming G8 Summit. [166845]

**Meg Munn:** The agenda for the G8 is the prerogative of the presidency and Japan has already indicated that development, including health, will be one of their priorities for next year's summit. In a recent telephone call, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the Japanese Foreign Minister discussed the G8 agenda. The UK will continue to work closely with Japan on the G8 agenda in the run up to the Toyako summit in 2008.

### Haider Samad

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has received on the case of Haider Samad; and if he will make a statement. [164480]

(2) what discussions officials in his Department have had with officials in the Ministry of Defence on the case of Haider Samad. [164481]

**Meg Munn:** The hon. Member has received a briefing on this issue from a Foreign and Commonwealth Office official.

### Iran: Nuclear Weapons

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the *(a)* United Nations and *(b)* United States in support of a diplomatic resolution of tensions with Iran over its nuclear programme. [169584]

**Meg Munn:** The Government have played a leading role in securing three United Nations Security Council Resolutions which make clear that the international community is seeking a negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses this issue regularly with the US Secretary of State, and the US is also part of the E3+3 group of countries that meets regularly to co-ordinate our approach. We, the US and the other members of the E3+3 are fully committed to a diplomatic resolution to this matter.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent diplomatic steps the Government have taken to resolve the question of Iran's nuclear programme. [169585]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK continues to play a leading role in the international effort to address strong concerns about the Iranian nuclear programme. When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Foreign Ministers of the other E3+3 countries (France, Germany, US, Russia, China) and Javier Solana in New York on 28 September they agreed that they would seek a vote on a UN Security Council sanctions resolution, unless both Javier Solana and Mohammad El Baradei reported "positive outcomes" from their contacts with the Iranians in November. Dr. El Baradei's report on 15 November noted that the International Atomic Energy Agency's visibility of Iran's nuclear programme was 'diminishing'—this cannot be considered a positive report. Javier Solana also reported negatively—he said that his meeting with Saeed Jalili was 'disappointing'. E3+3 Political Directors met in Paris on 1 December. They agreed to work up a new UN Security Council sanctions resolution. Beyond the UN process, my right hon. Friend also discussed the matter with EU Foreign Ministers at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Luxembourg on 15 October and they agreed to examine further measures the EU could take. Consideration of this issue continues.

### Iraq Neighbours Conference

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the working groups on *(a)* energy, *(b)* security and *(c)* refugees have met since their establishment under the Iraq Neighbours Conference; and what progress has been achieved by each. [168555]

**David Miliband:** Each of the working groups has met once.

The Energy Working Group met in Istanbul on 28-29 June and agreed to exchanges of information on energy issues and to provide technical assistance and support for the oil, gas and electricity sectors.

The Refugee and Displaced Persons Working Group met in Amman on 26 July and agreed to support the efforts of the Government of Iraq to improve the humanitarian and security situation to accelerate the return of displaced Iraqis. There was also discussion of health care provisions in the host countries.

The Security Working Group met in Damascus on 8-9 August and agreed to continue efforts to combat terrorist groups and those supporting them, in particular by cutting off financing and activating existing bilateral security agreements.

We hope that the ministerial meeting held in Istanbul on 2-3 November, together with the decision to establish a permanent support mechanism for the

Neighbours process, will add further impetus to the process and allow the working groups to build on their welcome initial progress.

### Japan: Whales

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Japan about *(a)* the hunting of endangered whales and *(b)* whaling claimed to be scientific; and if he will make a statement. [168508]

**Meg Munn:** The Government are deeply concerned at the latest Japanese proposals which include plans to take 50 of the endangered species of Humpback whales. In response, we are considering a high level diplomatic protest to the Japanese Government, following consultation with like-minded anti-whaling countries. In the meantime, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has conveyed the UK's concerns at an official level in both London and Tokyo.

### Kosovo

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the stability of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia of a declaration of Kosovan independence. [170415]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Macedonia's political stability is underpinned by the Ohrid Framework Agreement which provides for far-reaching and comprehensive rights and safeguards for the country's minority communities.

Macedonia is making good progress towards eventual EU and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation membership. We are confident this will be maintained.

The Government of Macedonia has consistently made clear its view that its interests—and those of the region as a whole—are best served by swift resolution of the Kosovo status issue.

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether any settlement on the final status of Kosovo will secure the backing of the UN Security Council. [170779]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UN Secretary-General and the Contact Group as a whole agree that the status quo in Kosovo is unsustainable and that a solution has to be found without further delay. In keeping with this spirit, we hope all members of the UN Security Council will engage constructively in international efforts to bring the process through to successful completion.

### Kosovo: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the Prime Minister of Serbia's comments on the Dayton peace agreement and UN Security Council Resolution 1244 on Kosovo. [168383]

**David Miliband:** We do not agree with Prime Minister Kostunica's recent statements on Bosnia and Herzegovina which called on the High Representative to withdraw his recent measures or resign, drew parallels with the situation in Kosovo and suggested efforts were being made to undermine the Dayton Peace Accords in Bosnia and Security Council Resolution 1244 in Kosovo. We have made our concerns clear to the Serb Government.

We hope Serbia will work to help ease recent tensions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UK fully supports High Representative Lajcak, whose authority derives from Dayton. We call on all parties to comply with the High Representative's decisions as they are obliged to do under the Dayton Accords.

### Middle East: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 392W, on Middle East: peace negotiations, what rank or grade is held by the seconded civil servants to Mr. Blair's office; what their combined salary and expenses costs have been; from what budget these costs are being drawn; what financial and logistical contributions have been made by *(a)* the United States of America, *(b)* Russia and *(c)* the European Union to the United Nations Development Programme Trust Fund to support the work of Mr. Blair and his office; and if he will make a statement. [168454]

**David Miliband** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has seconded: one executive officer equivalent; one higher executive officer equivalent; and one senior civil servant equivalent to work in the right hon. Tony Blair's office. The FCO is funding their salaries. It would not be appropriate to give salary details as to do so could reveal individuals' salaries.

We do not have figures available for each member of the quartet's (US, EU, UN and Russia) contribution to the work of the right hon. Tony Blair as quartet representative.

We strongly support the work of the right hon. Tony Blair. He is exceptionally well placed to take on this role. His work will be key in delivering a future Palestinian state with strong institutions and a robust economy.

### National Technical Assistance Centre: Children

**Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many cases referred to the National Technical Assistance Centre since its inception have been child protection inquiries, broken down by the referring police force; [168800]

(2) pursuant to the Answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 759-61W, on National Technical Assistance Centre, how many cases referred to the National Technical Assistance Centre, since its inception, have related to child protection. [168806]

**David Miliband** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The National Technical Assistance Centre was formally transferred from the Home Office to Government Communications Headquarters in April 2006. It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters, including the work of the Intelligence Agencies.

**Northern Cyprus: Economic Situation**

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action he is taking to ensure that economic development in the north of Cyprus proceeds with a view to integration and convergence with the economy in the south; and if he will make a statement. [163797]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK fully supports the efforts to place market forces at the service of a settlement. We continue to support the efforts of the Commission and successive presidencies to promote the economic integration of the Turkish Cypriot community with the Greek Cypriot community and the rest of the EU. We are disappointed by the lack of progress in this area.

**Northern Cyprus: Electrification**

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the account taken by Turkish Cypriots of the EC environmental assessment on the Karpas electrification project; and if he will make a statement. [163795]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today (UIN 163793).

**Northern Cyprus: Industrial Development**

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Turkish Cypriots on the development of the Karpas region with particular reference to *(a)* the electrification project and *(b)* the hotel and tourism building programme; and if he will make a statement. [163793]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK has supported the European Commission's recommendations regarding the protection of the Karpas region, including through the establishment of a properly regulated conservation area. We have urged the Turkish Cypriot leadership to take steps to ensure that the fragile environment of the Karpas is protected from uncontrolled development.

**Northern Cyprus: Islam**

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the dismissal in 2006 of imans in northern Cyprus and their replacement with imans from Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [163798]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Government have not made any assessment. We understand that the Turkish Cypriot decision to appoint imams from Turkey was taken in order to cover shortfalls in northern Cyprus.

**Northern Cyprus: Smuggling**

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the risk of smuggling *(a)* people and *(b)* narcotics from Syria to Northern Cyprus and into the EU through the green line, with particular reference to the new ferry service from Syria to Famagusta; and if he will make a statement. [163794]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** In the Green Line Regulation report, October 2007, the EU Commission reported that there are large numbers of illegal immigrants who enter into the EU via the Green Line every year.

The UK is concerned about the risk of people and narcotics smuggling to north Cyprus, and through the Green Line. We have sought to build the capacity of the Turkish Cypriot community to counter these threats to Cyprus and the EU, by whatever route they arrive.

**Nuclear Disarmament**

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards the achievement of the 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed at the NPT Review Conference in 2000; and if he will make a statement. [168609]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK is fulfilling all its obligations under the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT), including those on disarmament under article VI of the treaty. We continue to support the relevant disarmament measures contained in the Final Document from the NPT Review Conference in 2000, including the 13 practical steps towards disarmament, and we have a good record on meeting the priorities they set out. Not all the 13 steps are relevant to the UK, such as those relating to bilateral measures between the US and Russia. However, we have made progress on the majority of those that are. The 2006 White Paper on the future of the UK nuclear deterrent committed us to a further 20 per cent. reduction in our stockpile of operationally available warheads and my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) announced on 25 June, at the Carnegie Institute, further work on the development of expertise in methods and techniques to verify the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. We continue to call for the entry into force of the comprehensive test ban treaty as soon as possible and, pending its entry into force, maintain a moratorium on nuclear weapons test explosions and any other nuclear explosions. The UK is also pressing for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty, without pre-conditions, at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the UK voted against the resolution on reducing nuclear danger in the United Nations First Committee on Disarmament on 17 October 2003. [170784]

**Meg Munn:** The resolution on "Reducing Nuclear Danger" at the United Nations First Committee on Disarmament on 17 October 2007 contains a number

of elements that the United Kingdom does not support. These include assertions on the alert status of nuclear weapons that we do not accept. Our reasoning is explained in an 'Explanation of Vote' (EoV) on the resolution at the same Committee on "Nuclear De-Alerting". A copy of the EoV will be placed in the Library of the House.

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government supports proposals to de-alert nuclear weapons world-wide. [170785]

**Dr. Howells:** The United Kingdom has already taken steps to reduce the alert status of our nuclear deterrent. We also note the statements made by nuclear weapon states regarding the de-targeting and de-alerting of their nuclear forces. As we made clear in our Explanation of Vote on the Resolution on "nuclear de-alerting" in the United Nations First Committee on Disarmament on 17 October 2007, we do not accept that the world is at risk due to large numbers of nuclear weapons at dangerously high levels of alert.

### Nuclear Weapons

**Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take in the next six months to encourage the governments of Russia and the USA to remove their nuclear missiles from hair-trigger-alert. [168608]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** There is no internationally agreed definition of the term 'hair-trigger-alert', and it is not a term the UK uses. The Permanent Representative of the United States to the Conference on Disarmament recently stated that:

"US nuclear forces are not and have never been on 'hair-trigger-alert'".

We have no indication that Russia considers any of its nuclear forces to be on 'hair-trigger-alert'.

### Pakistan: Blasphemy

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Pakistan on the blasphemy trial of Qamar David in Karachi. [168069]

**Dr. Howells:** We are aware of the case of Qamar David, but we do not raise every individual blasphemy case and we have not made any representations on this case to the Government of Pakistan. However, we regularly raise our concerns about blasphemy legislation and its effects on minority groups with the Government of Pakistan, both bilaterally and with our EU partners, and will continue to do so.

### Peacekeeping Operations: Private Sector

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms his Department has in place to assess the costs and benefits of the services provided to the Government by private military security companies; and if he will make a statement. [168455]

**David Miliband** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* Costs and benefits of Private Military and Security Company (PMSC) services, as with all contractor services, are assessed during the tendering process of a contract, during the contract's lifetime and on completion of that contract.

The Government ensure that all contracts are subject to a rigorous selection process so that we obtain best value for money. Any company engaged by the Government needs to pass through a stringent and transparent procurement process in line with public procurement guidelines and best practice.

All PMSC contracts are subject to ongoing performance monitoring and contract management by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and other Government Departments concerned, both in country on-the-ground and from the UK, in respect of all aspects of the delivery and operation of these contracts. FCO monitors performance by a mixture of key performance indicators, regular visits by overseas security advisors to FCO posts who review and report on the PMSCs' performance, regular review meetings in London with PMSCs, and monitoring expenditure against a fully profiled budget.

In addition, the FCO reviews requirements on completion of the contract and prior to re-tendering in order to highlight any improvements that could be made as a result of experience or lessons learned.

### Somalia: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the UK has put forward for protecting civilians caught in the fighting between insurgents and the allied Ethiopian and government troops in Somalia. [167205]

**Meg Munn:** The Government attach great importance to the protection of civilians. In Somalia, the current insurgency attacks tend to be indiscriminate and therefore unfortunately do sometimes involve civilian casualties. We urge the Transitional Federal government of Somalia and the government of Ethiopia to ensure their response to counter this threat is always proportionate and seeks to minimise civilian casualties.

The UK strategy for handling Somalia in the long-term aims to bring peace and stability to the country. This includes supporting the transitional political process, supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia and contributing to the UN Rule of Law programme, which provides training for a civilian police force.

### Somalia: Politics and Government

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment the Government have made of the potential effects on the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia of insurgency activity in the country. [167159]

**Meg Munn:** The Government assess that insurgent attacks in Somalia continue to damage the hopes and prospects of ordinary Somalis. Along with our international partners, we are committed to assisting the Transitional Federal Government and institutions to rebuild Somalia

through the process envisaged in the Transitional Federal Charter. We hope that the insurgents will see that an inclusive political process is the only way that a successful transition can be delivered and cease to use violence in pursuit of their aims.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking along with their EU partners to assist the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to tackle insurgent activity. [167180]

**Meg Munn:** The Government are supporting the efforts of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to tackle the insurgency. The UK, with our EU partners, provides a range of security assistance programmes to the TFG to give it a greater capacity to tackle insurgency in the long term.

This includes support for the African Union Mission to Somalia deployment. The UK and EU partners have provided more than €30 million to support the mission. The UK and EU partners also support the UN Rule of Law programme that trains Somalian civilian police officers.

### Sudan: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond of 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2214W, on Sudan: armed conflict, what progress has been made in considering the measures to improve air monitoring in Darfur; and what further steps the Government are taking with its international partners on this matter. [168730]

**Meg Munn:** We are working with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the African Union (AU), the government of Sudan and international partners for the prompt deployment of an effective UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) force to improve stability and security in Darfur. This has been the priority since UN Security Council Resolution 1769 was passed on 31 July mandating the UNAMID force. Among other activities, we hope that UNAMID will improve monitoring of military activity in the region.

We welcome the recent cessation of hostilities that the government of Sudan announced at the start of peace talks on 27 October. We are pressing all parties to sign up to a cessation of hostilities with immediate effect and to engage on the peace process.

### Sudan: Blasphemy

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sudan following the arrest of the British primary school teacher Gillian Gibbons in Sudan on 26 November. [169633]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary summoned the Sudanese ambassador twice on 29 November to express our concerns in Ms Gibbons' case. He also spoke to the Sudanese Deputy Foreign Minister on 29 November and 1 December.

### Sudan: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contributions the Government are making to the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation. [168167]

**Meg Munn:** The UK is filling five key posts in the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC) which will be the main mechanism for civil society engagement in the African Union/United Nations-led Darfur Political Process and in longer-term reconciliation and rehabilitation in Darfur. These posts, which consist of a Chief of Operations, a Communication Officer and three Field Co-ordinators, will strengthen existing capacity and ensure that the DDDC can deliver a comprehensive and scaled-up plan for taking forward civil society engagement.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Arab communities are represented in the African Union-UN led Darfur peace process. [168168]

**Meg Munn:** The UK has committed £1 million to support the Darfur Political Process, led by the African Union (AU) and UN. We have made clear to the AU and UN that effective consultation with Arab communities is essential for an inclusive process.

The UK has committed over £2 million since July 2006, to support the AU in communicating the benefits of the Darfur Peace Agreement and the current political process to the people of Darfur. As part of this support, the AU will work with the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC) to hold a conference for Darfurian Arabs in early December. This will address concerns of the Arab tribes and further their engagement in the political process through the DDDC, which will be the main mechanism for civil society engagement in the political process and in longer-term reconciliation and rehabilitation in Darfur.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of substantial progress being made in the December peace process talks for Darfur. [168729]

**Meg Munn:** The start of the Darfur political talks in Libya on 27 October and the announcement of a cessation of hostilities by the government of Sudan were welcome steps towards ending the conflict in Darfur. The UK is currently supporting the African Union and United Nations in encouraging the rebel movements to unify further and agree on common platforms. Good progress has already been made, particularly among the rebel groups based in Juba. We hope to see further, significant progress in rebel preparedness for negotiations during December. Only a political process can provide a sustainable solution to the Darfur conflict.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government *(a)* have offered and *(b)* plan to offer to the UN-African Union force in Darfur, Sudan. [169199]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* We are providing advice and support through a Brigadier who has deployed as Chief of Staff for the UN-African Union (AU) force in Darfur (UNAMID) and through UK military staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York. We are supporting the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in calling on countries to provide helicopters and ground transportation for UNAMID. We continue to contribute towards troop rotations for the AU Mission in Sudan, which will become part of the UNAMID force. Financial support to the UNAMID mission will be through assessed contributions to the UN.

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary General of the UN on the situation in Darfur. [169200]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed Darfur several times with the UN Secretary-General, including by telephone on 11 September and at the UN General Assembly in New York on 28 September.

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sudan on the establishment, funding, staffing and equipping of the UN-African Union force in Darfur, Sudan. [169205]

**Meg Munn** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* We have repeatedly pressed the Government of Sudan not to obstruct a prompt and effective deployment of the UN-African Union (AU) hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID) and to accept the force composition agreed by the UN and the AU.

Responsibility for the generation, staffing and equipping of the force lies with the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations, in consultation with the AU. We are working closely with the Department for Peacekeeping Operations in calling on countries to provide helicopters and ground transportation for UNAMID.

Funding for UNAMID will be through assessed contributions to the UN.

### Torture

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what safeguards have been included in *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU agreements on sharing intelligence with countries that permit torture and corporal punishment within domestic law to exclude any information obtained by torture as defined in international law. [168623]

**David Miliband:** Torture is one of the most abhorrent violations of human rights and human dignity, and its use is absolutely prohibited under international law. We unreservedly condemn the use of torture and have made it an important part of our foreign policy to pursue its eradication world-wide. Where we are helping other countries to develop their own counter-terrorism capability, we ensure our training or other assistance promotes human rights compliance.

The Government, including the Intelligence and Security Agencies, never use torture for any purpose, nor would we instigate others to do so. Our rejection of the use of torture is well known by our partners and our intelligence agencies routinely seek assurances from foreign liaison services on humane treatment of detainees.

### Turkey: EU Enlargement

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of levels of support for EU accession among *(a)* the people of Turkey and *(b)* of Turkish Cypriots; and if he will make a statement. [163284]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The UK believes that strong popular support is key to the success of enlargement and fully supports initiatives ensuring that citizens better understand the process of enlargement. The UK notes that the most recent Eurobarometer Report (April to May 2007), found that 57 per cent. of Turks polled replied that EU membership would be a good thing. The UK has not conducted an independent assessment of levels of support for EU accession among Turkish Cypriots. However, our contacts with a range of Turkish Cypriot interlocutors and recent polls indicate that support for EU accession is waning. This underlines the need for the speedy implementation of the UN's 8 July 2006 Agreement leading to a just, comprehensive and durable settlement of benefit to all Cypriots, as well as the implementation of the EU Commission's projects which will improve the quality of life of ordinary Turkish Cypriots and bring them closer to the EU.

### Uganda: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* position adopted by the leadership of the Lord's Resistance Army and *(b)* effect of this position on the peace talks being held with the Government of Uganda in Juba. [168068]

**Meg Munn:** The leadership of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remains publicly supportive of the Juba peace talks. The Government welcome the current consultations being carried out in northern Uganda between the victims of the conflict and the LRA negotiating team. We are hopeful that a deal can be concluded early in 2008, but recognise that several difficult issues still need to be resolved.

We have seen recent reports of a split in the LRA leadership, but these have yet to be confirmed. This has not had a negative impact on the peace process so far.

**Whales: Conservation**

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his strategy is for *(a)* increasing the UK's anti-whaling efforts, *(b)* recruiting more pro-conservation countries to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and *(c)* encouraging IWC members who have voted with Japan in the past to use their votes for whale conservation. [168497]

**Meg Munn:** The UK plays a prominent role in building and maintaining the coalition of anti-whaling countries within the International Whaling Commission (IWC). In advance of the 2007 annual meeting in Anchorage, the UK and its like-minded allies recruited a further six countries into the IWC, with the net result that the pro-whaling majority in that organisation was overturned. In a further response to UK lobbying efforts, several other countries have indicated willingness to support our opposition to Japanese whaling and to join the IWC in time for next year's annual meeting.

British embassies and missions will shortly deliver to certain governments an updated version of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs publication "Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility" as part of a lobbying campaign to encourage more countries to join the IWC, to strengthen further the global opposition to commercial whaling.

UK diplomatic posts in all the relevant capitals are briefed, and engage in discussion with their counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity. The UK, together with its like-minded allies, lobbies the governments of the countries that vote with Japan at the International Whaling Convention to ensure that they are in no doubt as to the importance we attach to whale conservation.

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his definition of scientific whaling is; what definition the Japanese Government uses of scientific whaling; and if he will make a statement. [168503]

**Meg Munn:** The UK believes that any scientific whaling should be confined to non-lethal research, and should be undertaken only if relevant proposals have been approved by the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

The right of member states to issue permits for the killing of whales for scientific purposes is enshrined in article VIII of the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, the IWC's parent treaty. However, 'Scientific purposes' are not defined by the Convention. Furthermore, we doubt that the authors of the Convention anticipated that parties would undertake research on the scale now practised by Japan.

Contrary to Japan's claims, its research programmes have not met with universal support or acclaim from the IWC Scientific Committee. That committee has not endorsed this research and has expressed many reservations.

Japan says its scientific whaling programmes are essential to understand better whale populations and the ecosystems in which they reside. They state that a range of information is needed for the management and conservation of whales, such as population, age structure, growth rates, reproductive rates, feeding—and that this can only be obtained through lethal research.

The UK has consistently voiced its opposition to Japanese scientific whaling. Like most IWC members, the UK does not believe that scientific research can justify the large-scale killing of whales. In our view, Japan's research programmes are deeply flawed.

**Yoo Sang-joon**

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of China in the case of Yoo Sang-joon, a North Korean on trial in China; with particular reference to the potential repatriation of Yoo Sang-joon to North Korea. [168715]

**Meg Munn:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones) today (UIN 166854).

# Written Answers to Questions

*Tuesday 4 December 2007*

## TRANSPORT

### Bus Services

11. **Stephen Hesford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to improve local bus services. [170394]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Local and central Government are now providing £2.5 billion annually to support local bus services, double the level of support of 10 years ago. In addition, proposals in the Local Transport Bill will give local authorities increased flexibility and powers to work with bus operators to improve local bus services.

### Crossrail

13. **Mr. Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the implications of Crossrail for London's rail passengers. [170396]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Crossrail will carry nearly 200 million passengers a year, increasing peak east-west capacity by 40 per cent. The project will relieve overcrowding and congestion on the existing National Rail and London Underground lines, helping to meet expected growth in demand for public transport and improving accessibility. Many east-west journey times will be significantly improved.

### Railway Overcrowding

14. **Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of levels of overcrowding on the rail network. [170397]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Existing and future demand for rail travel was assessed in preparing the rail White Paper. It was that assessment, and the associated need to tackle existing and potential overcrowding, that led to the capacity enhancements specified in the White Paper.

### Heathrow Airport

15. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the future of Heathrow Airport. [170398]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** My right hon. Friend announced the launch of the Government's consultation "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" in her statement of 22 November. The consultation will run until 27 February. We expect to make final policy decisions later in 2008, taking account of all the available evidence, including the responses to the consultation.

23. **Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on the future of Heathrow Airport; and if she will make a statement. [170406]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** We have received representations from a wide range of interests including environmental and business groups, local councillors and local residents' associations and expect to receive many more in response to the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation launched by my right hon. Friend on 22 November.

### Road Safety

16. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to improve road safety in urban areas. [170399]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Road Casualties Great Britain 2006 shows a 33 per cent. reduction in the number of people killed and seriously injured in built-up areas from the 1994-98 baseline average. The Government's road safety strategy contains a range of initiatives to further reduce the number of accidents in both urban and rural areas.

### Railways: Passenger Satisfaction

17. **Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of levels of passenger satisfaction with the railways; and if she will make a statement. [170400]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The latest national survey shows that in spring 2007 around four out of five rail passengers were satisfied with the service they received.

### Freight Transport

18. **Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to implement her policy of seeking a substantial shift of freight traffic from road to rail. [170401]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Government provide grant funding for modal shift from road to rail and water through the Sustainable Distribution Fund. In addition: the rail White Paper announced £200 million of Network Rail investment until 2014 to assist in the creation of a Strategic Freight Network; and the Department is providing over £150 million of funding for specific rail freight projects through the Transport Innovation Fund.

### Street Works

19. **Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made on reducing disruption and congestion caused by street works. [170402]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department has made regulations for Permit Schemes under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and revised those for Registers, Notices, Directions and Designations. These come into force on 1 April 2008. Associated codes of practice have also been issued. "A Good Practice Guide to Managing Works in the Street" was launched in May 2007.

### Railways: Accessibility

21. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress her Department has made in improving the accessibility of the rail network for passengers with disabilities and those with reduced mobility. [170404]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Under the Railways for All Programme we have so far announced 100 stations at which we expect Network Rail to provide a step-free route. We expect 25 of these to be substantially complete by 31 March 2008. Further stations will be included in the programme shortly.

Access improvements at more than 500 other stations have also been approved up to March 2008 under the Access for All Small Schemes programme with the results of the latest round of bids to be announced early next year.

### Concessionary Bus Travel

22. **Mr. Martlew**: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers she estimates will use the concessionary bus fares scheme. [170405]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** From April next year around 11 million older and eligible disabled people resident in England will be entitled to at least free off-peak bus travel anywhere in England. In calculating the extra funding of £212 million we assumed an 85 per cent. uptake of passes, which we believe is a generous assumption.

### Durham Tees Valley-Heathrow Route

24. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make the air travel route between Durham Tees Valley Airport and Heathrow a public service obligation route. [170407]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Secretary of State will consider on its merits any application to impose a public service obligation on the Durham Tees Valley to Heathrow route. The Government's guidance on the protection of regional air access to London published in December 2005 sets out how we will interpret the criteria for imposing PSOs set out in European Regulations. It is for regional bodies in the north-east to apply for and make the economic case for a PSO.

### Thameslink and Crossrail

25. **Simon Hughes**: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected timetable is for work in London to deliver Government commitments on Thameslink 2000 and Crossrail. [170408]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Thameslink Programme has already started on site and is scheduled to deliver substantial benefits to rail passengers by the end of 2015. In addition, some services will benefit from longer trains from the end of 2011.

Assuming Royal Assent to the Crossrail Bill in summer 2008, enabling works for Crossrail are scheduled to commence in 2009, with main construction works commencing in 2010. Operational trials will begin towards the end of 2016, in time for services to commence in 2017.

### A14: Kettering

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Highways Agency is seeking to restrict the access of local traffic to the A14 around Kettering. [171068]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Highways Agency is working with other parts of Government to secure the delivery of a substantial amount of housing in Northamptonshire in general and Kettering in particular. The A14 running just to the south of Kettering serves both long distance and local traffic and is currently operating under considerable stress.

A major improvement scheme is under consideration, but this will take time to deliver. In the meantime, the Highways Agency is looking into measures that could allow the new housing to get under way while maintaining the functionality of the important A14 route. This includes the prospect of ramp metering which is a technique where the amount of traffic joining the A14 is managed through the use of signals, accompanied by sensors, to regulate the system and prevent the build-up of traffic on the adjacent local road network.

The Highways Agency will continue to work closely with partners, in particular Northamptonshire county council, to develop proposals which balance the needs of the strategic and local highway network. However the overall strategy is not simply about concrete infrastructure. There are many measures, including those designed to secure modal shift that could be put in place to reduce to a minimum the amount of traffic generated by the new development. Northamptonshire county council's Transport Strategy for Growth provides a strong guide to what can be achieved.

### Airports

**Mr. Prisk:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is Government policy that development of a second runway at Stansted Airport should precede the development of a third runway at Heathrow Airport. [170299]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The 2003 "Future of Air Transport" White Paper supported two new runways in the South East by 2030, the first at Stansted. The Government's current consultation "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" is consistent with that policy. Stansted Airport Limited expects to be in a position to submit a planning application around the turn of the year.

### M1: Motorway Service Areas

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the services adjacent to junction 22 of the M1 motorway are not signposted on the motorway; and if she will arrange for signage to be erected. [170514]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** All signing on motorways is carefully controlled. The Highways Agency does not generally provide signs for a service development less than 15 miles from an established motorway service area (MSA). There is a long-established, purpose built MSA at Leicester Forest East seven miles to the south, where access is directly from the motorway.

### Motorways

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to improve rainwater run-off on motorways; and if she will make a statement. [170515]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Highways Agency (HA) has recently published a number of new drainage standards aimed at reducing the risk of flooding of the strategic road network. This includes the provision of better control measures for road runoff in order to minimise the impact on receiving waters. The HA has also implemented a programme of work in partnership with the Environment Agency to meet the more stringent quality requirements of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC by 2015. Research is ongoing in these areas and further additional guidance is anticipated in the future.

## PRIME MINISTER

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Prime Minister (1) what reviews have been undertaken of No. 10 Downing street's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of No. 10 Downing street's compliance with data protection laws; and if he will undertake a review of No. 10 Downing street's compliance with data protection laws; [168076]

(2) how many employees of each grade in his Office *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disk; how many of his Office's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of his Office has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Office for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases was; [168281]

(3) on how many occasions in his Office confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs *(a)* without and *(b)* with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Office has in place for the (i) transport, (ii) exchange and (iii) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Office being sent outside his Office; what changes have been made to his Office's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Office's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Office has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in his Office's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with his Office's procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Office's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations. [168261]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Prime Minister whether he proposes to review how his Office transports data; and whether his Office uses TNT to transport data. [169229]

**The Prime Minister:** I refer the hon. Members to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 847-48W.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167283]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following tables detail the number of secondments of staff *(a)* to and *(b)* from the Northern Ireland Office in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from. The cost of each secondment is not collated and the cost of gathering this information would be disproportionate.

*NIO staff currently on secondment*

| *Date from* | *Seconded to* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| 29 July 1996 | Foreign and Commonwealth Office | 1 |
| 8 June 2001 | Cabinet Office | 1 |
| 5 November 2001 | HM Treasury | 1 |
| 7 January 2003 | PSNI | 1 |
| 10 November 2003 | PSNI | 1 |
| 17 November 2003 | ILEX URC Ltd. | 1 |
| 10 January 2005 | PSNI | 1 |
| 1 April 2005 | Prisoner Ombudsman's Office | 4 |
| 4 April 2005 | Prisoner Ombudsman's Office | 1 |
| 18 April 2005 | Home Office | 1 |
| 25 April 2005 | Prisoner Ombudsman's Office | 1 |
| 1 October 2005 | Foreign Affairs | 1 |
| 17 October 2005 | Courts Service | 1 |
| 18 May 2006 | Prisoner Ombudsman's Office | 1 |
| 8 January 2006 | PSNI | 1 |
| 3 July 2006 | Prisoner Ombudsman's Office | 1 |
| 1 September 2006 | OFMDFM | 6 |
| 8 January 2007 | Conservation Volunteers | 1 |
| 15 January 2007 | Conservation Volunteers | 1 |
| 5 February 2007 | Home Office | 1 |
| 2 April 2007 | UK Civil Service | 1 |
| 10 April 2007 | Department of Communities and Local Government | 1 |
| 4 June 2007 | UK Civil Service | 1 |
| 2 July 2007 | Prisoner Ombudsman's Office | 1 |
| 9 July 2007 | Prisoner Ombudsman's Office | 1 |
| 30 July 2007 | UK Civil Service | 1 |
| 10 September 2007 | Prisoner Ombudsman's Office | 1 |
| 5 November 2007 | Prisoner Ombudsman's Office | 1 |
| 16 November 2007 | UK Civil Service | 1 |
| Total | | 37 |

*Staff currently seconded to NIO*

| *Date from* | *Seconded from* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| 22 January 1997 | HM Customs and Excise | 1 |
| 5 November 2001 | Foreign Commonwealth | 1 |
| 23 June 2003 | Enterprise Trade and Investment | 1 |
| 16 August 2004 | Home Office | 1 |
| 23 November 2004 | Education | 1 |
| 6 April 2005 | Department of Constitutional Affairs | 1 |
| 18 September 2006 | Department of Constitutional Affairs | 1 |
| 1 February 2007 | Health and Social Services | 1 |
| 2 July 2007 | Home Office | 1 |
| 2 July 2007 | Finance and Personnel | 1 |
| 9 September 2007 | Probation Board | 1 |
| Total | | 11 |

*Staff seconded from NIO since 1997*

| *Seconded to* | *Length of secondment* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| *1997* | | |
| Prince of Wales Voluntary Scheme | 3 months | 1 |
| Cabinet Office | 1 year 2 months | 1 |
| Prince of Wales Voluntary Scheme | 7 months | 1 |
| Total | | 3 |
| *1998* | | |
| Cabinet Office | 3 years | 1 |
| Ministry of Defence | 4 years | 1 |
| Central Computer and Telecom Agency | 1 year | 1 |
| Prince of Wales Voluntary Scheme | 1 year | 1 |
| Department of Constitutional Affairs | 2 years 2 months | 1 |
| NI Assembly | 1 year 6 months | 1 |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office | 7 years 7 months | 1 |
| Total | | 7 |
| *1999* | | |
| Northern Ireland Assembly | 3 years | 1 |
| Customs and Excise | 8 months | 1 |
| Department of Culture Media and Sport | 1 month | 1 |
| Northern Ireland Assembly | 1 year 8 months | 1 |
| Department of Social Community and Family Affairs Dublin | 6 months | 1 |
| NI Courts Service | 1 year 1 month | 1 |
| Royal Commission House of Lords | 6 months | 1 |
| Police Complaints Authority | 9 days | 1 |
| Prince of Wales Voluntary Scheme | 3 months | 1 |
| Princes Trust | 1 year | 1 |
| Total | | 10 |
| *2000* | | |
| Acute Hospitals Review | 10 months | 1 |
| HM Treasury | 2 years 10 months | 1 |
| Attorney Generals Office | 4 years 3 months | 1 |
| Total | | 3 |
| *2001* | | |
| Police Complaints Authority | 3 months | 1 |

*Staff seconded from NIO since 1997*

| *Seconded to* | *Length of secondment* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| Department of Culture Arts and Leisure | 3 years | 1 |
| Prince of Wales Trust | 2 months | 1 |
| Prince of Wales Trust | 10 months | 1 |
| Total | | 4 |
| *2002* | | |
| Department of Culture Media and Sport | 3 years | 1 |
| PSNI | 3 years | 1 |
| Bromley Bow Community Centre | 2 years 10 months | 1 |
| HM Treasury | 10 months | 1 |
| | 10 months | 1 |
| Total | | 4 |
| *2003* | | |
| PSNI | 6 months | 1 |
| PSNI | 2 years 3 months | 1 |
| Total | | 2 |
| *2004* | | |
| Prisoner Ombudsman's Office | 1 year 9 months | 1 |
| Government Decontamination and Recovery Unit | 1 year 9 months | 1 |
| Total | | 2 |
| *2005* | | |
| Royal National Institute for the Deaf | 1 year 1 month | 1 |
| Ministry of Defence | 1 year 9 months | 1 |
| NI Memorial Fund | 1 year 8 months | 1 |
| Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths | 8 months | 1 |
| Total | | 4 |

*Staff seconded to NIO since 1997*

| *Seconded from* | *Length of secondment* | *Number* |
|---|---|---|
| *1998* | | |
| Home Office | 4 years 3 months | 1 |
| Total | | 1 |
| *2002* | | |
| Department of Trade and Industry | 3 years 3 months | 1 |
| Total | | 1 |
| *2004* | | |
| Foreign Office | 1 year 4 months | 1 |
| Total | | 1 |

## Police Service of Northern Ireland: Belfast

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of the police establishment in North Belfast consisted of *(a)* full-time reserve officers and *(b)* part-time reserve officers at 31 October. [170492]

**Paul Goggins:** The police establishment figures for North Belfast on 31 October 2007 are provided in the following table.

| | Number | Proportion (percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| Regular | 300 | 73.71 |
| Full-time reserve | 36 | 8.85 |
| Part-time reserve | 71 | 17.44 |
| Total | 407 | 100 |

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* on licences and *(b)* off licences to sell alcohol under the Licensing Act 2003 were subject to (i) review and (ii) revocation as a result of (A) selling alcohol to persons under the age of 18 and (B) disorderly conduct, broken down by (1) police force area and (2) local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [167977]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** This information is not held centrally.

Past and future statistical bulletins on licences to sell alcohol include the number of licences revoked, but do not indicate why. Licences may be revoked on review for one or more reasons relating to the four licensing objectives or breaches of licensing law including sales to children, disorderly conduct and breach of licensing conditions.

Although the DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment, which was published on 8 November, does not show numbers reviewed as a result of sales to under-18s it did show that 44 reviews were completed in the 12 months to March 2007 following closure under section 161 (closure orders for identified premises) which covers noise disturbance and disorder. The bulletin also showed that between April 2006 and March 2007, there were 693 reviews, which resulted in:

| | Number |
|---|---|
| Licences revoked | 92 |
| Licences suspended for up to three months[1] | 91 |
| Premises made to change their opening hours[1] | 110 |
| Premises had other conditions placed on their licences[1] | 400 |

[1] Not possible under old laws.

### Departmental Contracts

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163803]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department currently has the following ongoing contracts with external consultants for the current financial year 2007-08:

| Contract | Total value paid this year (£) | Length | Forecast value (£) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Engaging Places Evaluation | 0 | 2 months | 24,828 |
| Impact of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games | 0 | 4 months | 96,350 |
| ICT Strategy Compliance/Review | [1]49,751 | 1 year | 120,000 |
| Specialist Advice to Government Olympic Executive on 2012 | [1]30,364 | 1 year | 75,000 |
| Speech-writing | [1]5,875 | Ad hoc | [2] |
| Ceremonial Consultancy | 34,991.15 | 5 years | 275,000 |

[1] Including VAT and disbursements.
[2] Unknown.

### Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169032]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The information is in the table.

| | Turnover | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2005-06 | Percentage 2006-07 |
| Department for Culture Media and Sport | 21.3 | 14.8 |
| Royal Parks | 23 | 20 |

*Notes:*
1. All leavers have been used to calculate turnover. This includes staff on loan returning to their parent departments.
2. DCMS encourages staff interchange with other departments. At any one time 23 per cent. to 25 per cent. of staff are on loan.
3. The Royal Parks Constabulary (RPC) have been excluded from the figures relating to the Royal Parks Agency as these staff were transferred to the Metropolitan Police Service on 31 March 2006.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

**Mr. Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel he plans to be stationed in Northern Ireland as of the end of 2008, broken down by location. [170306]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* On current plans, there will be some 4,900 armed forces personnel stationed in Northern Ireland at 31 December 2008, with the principal regular units situated at the following locations:

| Location | Unit |
|---|---|
| Lisburn | HQNI and 38 (Irish) Bde |
| | HQ 19 Lt Bde and Sig Sqn |
| | NI Sp Bn |
| | 40 Regt RA |
| | 233 Sig Sqn |
| Aldergrove | 5 Regt AAC |
| | 230 Sqn RAF |
| Holywood | 2 MERCIAN |

| Location | Unit |
|---|---|
| Kinnegar | 19 CSS Bn |
| Ballykinler | 2 Rifles |
| Antrim | 38 Engr Regt |
| Duke of Connaught Unit | Belfast Military Hospital |

As I said in my written ministerial statement of 25 July 2007, the military footprint in Northern Ireland is now broadly comparable to that in the rest of the UK with the majority of forces training and preparing for operations worldwide. Although this is the planned number of armed forces personnel with a home base in Northern Ireland, the actual number of personnel present will be less as some of the units will be deployed on rest of the world operations.

### Colombia: Armed Forces

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units of the Colombian security forces UK military assistance is not provided to; and for what reasons. [171070]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The UK's Defence engagement is aimed at personnel from across Colombia's large armed forces, and not individual units. Current military assistance to Colombia is primarily concerned with education; there are strong emphases on training regarding human rights and the disposal of explosive devices in order to reduce the numbers of deaths, both civilian and military, from them. However, there are some aspects of military assistance which we do not give specific details as to do so could endanger not only the effectiveness of the support but also the lives of the British and Colombian personnel involved. The Parliamentary Ombudsman has upheld this decision.

### Hydrographic Office

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from which Government Departments officials have met with the team carrying out the review of the UK Hydrographic Office; and how many such meetings have taken place. [170841]

**Derek Twigg:** The UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) is a trading fund within the Ministry of Defence. Departments routinely carry out reviews of trading funds from time to time as part of the ownership role. In February 2007, I announced that we would carry out a review of the structural and ownership options for the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO). This is due to report at the end of the year.

During the course of the study, the study team met with officials from the following UK Government Departments:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;

Department for Transport (including the Maritime and Coastguard Agency);

Her Majesty's Treasury;

Office of Fair Trading; and

Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

These Departments were engaged at numerous points throughout the study but we do not hold records of the precise number of meetings held.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

### Energy Efficiency

**Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the policy is on the temperature at which each working area of each building on the parliamentary estate for which the House of Commons Commission is responsible is maintained. [170257]

**Nick Harvey:** General practice is to maintain a temperature of around 21 degrees Celsius in all office areas. The temperature in non-office areas may vary depending on the activity in that room. The statutory minimum temperature as given under the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 is 16 degrees Celsius after the first hour of working; unless the work involves strenuous physical exertion. Where possible, individuals' comfort preferences are taken into consideration. This however is subject to the limitations of the control available by each building's management control system and the need to provide thermal balance between areas.

### Portcullis House: Fire Alarms

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on how many occasions the fire alarm in Portcullis House has been set off since May 2005; and how many times there was a fire. [171462]

**Nick Harvey:** During the period May 2005 to end November 2007 there were 28 fire alarm incidents in Portcullis House. Of these:

three were actual fires;

five were accidental actuations, e.g. damage to call points;

11 resulted from system faults;

four were caused by engineers while working on the system;

five were caused by contractors or as a result of maintenance work.

## WALES

### Departmental Consultations

**Mrs. Gilian:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 312W, on departmental consultations, when he plans to place copies of the 18 responses in the Library. [169579]

**Mr. Hain:** We are currently checking with participants to ensure they are content for their responses to be published. I hope for this to be completed as soon as possible, at which stage I will place a copy in the Library.

### Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the percentage turnover of staff was in his Department in *(a)* the last 12-month period and *(b)* the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169044]

**Mr. Hain:** The turnover of Wales Office staff in the 2006-07 financial year was 32 per cent. Figures for earlier years are not available and could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

The number reflects the fact that the Wales Office is a small organisation. Around half of the staff at any time are on loan, and they will often move after two years. It also includes internal movements of staff, not just numbers 'in' and 'out'.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### 10 Downing Street: Publicity

**David Simpson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent by No. 10 Downing Street on advertising in the last 12 months. [167950]

**Edward Miliband:** For these purposes the Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. The answer given therefore is for the whole of the Cabinet Office. The Department's expenditure on campaign advertising for 2006-07 was £22,148.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws. [168091]

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168472]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by his Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years; [168824]

(2) how many breaches of data protection security there were in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach. [168841]

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many times databases held by his Department containing personal information on members of the general public were accessed in each month of the last five years; [168959]

(2) how many staff in his Department have access to electronic databases which contain personal information on members of the general public, broken down by grade of staff member; [168960]

(3) how many electronic databases containing *(a)* names, *(b)* addresses, *(c)* bank details and *(d)* other personal information of members of the general public his Department holds; [168979]

(4) how many requests his Department received from the National Audit Office for access to databases containing personal information on members of the general public in each year since 1997; [168963]

(5) how many security breaches regarding access to personal data occurred in his Department in each year since 1997; [168958]

(6) what mechanisms his Department has in place to ensure that databases held by his Department containing personal information on members of the general public are not accessed *(a)* by unauthorised staff and *(b)* by authorised staff for unauthorised purposes; [168978]

(7) when each electronic database containing personal information on members of the general public held by his Department was first created. [168957]

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 requiring investigation there have been in the last five years in his Department; what the nature of such breaches were; and what the results of the investigations were in each case. [169255]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169221]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### General Certificate of Secondary Education: Young Offenders

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of 16-year-olds who had been in custody for more than one year was entered for GCSE examinations in each year since 2001; and what proportion of 16-year-olds in custody gained five A* to Cs at GCSE in each of those years. [168195]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 632W.

### Sector Skills Council: Licensing

**Mr. Boswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 573W, on sector skills council: licensing, whether the Commission for Employment and Skills will be taking over from the Sector Skills Development Agency all its licensing functions; and whether the relicensing programme for sector skills councils will be a rolling process. [169426]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Commission for Employment and Skills will be responsible for providing advice to the relevant Secretaries of State across the UK about which Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) should receive a new license. The new licences will be issued by the Government.

The re-licensing of SSCs will be an early priority for the Commission. The intention is that the re-licensing of SSCs will be completed by the end of 2009. No decisions have been made about the review of licenses beyond 2009.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ACP Countries: Economic Agreements

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings have occurred between his Department and officials from the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries about economic partnership agreements; and what the outcomes were. [R] [169172]

**Mr. Thomas:** Between the Department for International Development, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office there has been close and constant contact with representatives from all the ACP negotiating regions at both ministerial and official level.

The outcome of this close contact is that we are in a position to know what the ACP countries want from these negotiations and represent their views to the European Commission and other member states. We are also able to provide them with support.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how economic partnership agreements will be ratified if signed; and what the role of Parliament will be in the ratification process. [R] [169173]

**Mr. Thomas:** Each completed Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) will need to be agreed by the European Union (EU) Council of Ministers. If the EPA is a goods only agreement and no more, it will fall within exclusive Community competence and would not require any national ratification, however if the EPA contains any elements other than trade in goods, it will have to be agreed at national level by each member state. In the UK, we must consult Parliament and each EPA must be debated and approved in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. We will do this by means of a statutory instrument.

We will however submit all EPA texts to Parliament for scrutiny, regardless of the formal ratification procedure.

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that any African, Caribbean or Pacific country unable to sign an economic partnership agreement by the end of 2007 does not experience more restricted market access into the EU from 1 January 2008. [169621]

**Mr. Thomas:** I am concerned about what happens to countries that are unable to sign an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) by the end of year deadline. In September I wrote to other European Union Trade Ministers to press the European Commission to ensure that African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries are no worse off after the end of 2007 once the Cotonou agreement lapses.

On 20 November at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, along with other European Union member states, asked the Commission to come forward with suggestions of what will be offered to countries that are engaged with the process but not ready to sign an EPA by the end of the year. It was agreed that recommendations from the Commission will be discussed at the December GAERC to ensure that these countries do not end up facing Generalised System of Preferences tariffs.

### Afghanistan: Reconstruction

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the UK spent on provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan in each of the last five years; and what projects such funding has supported. [167251]

**David Miliband:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government spent £1.4 million through the Mazar-e Sharif Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) on police training and mentoring. Since opening in May 2006, the Helmand PRT has implemented 199 Quick Impact Projects valued at £11.6 million. This has supported a number of building projects (including schools, parks and police stations), police training and women's rights projects. A further £4.5 million has been spent on longer-term projects in support of governance in the province.

I will write to the right hon. Member with a list of projects and will arrange for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

### Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of funding for the *(a)* first and *(b)* second phase of the humanitarian response to the cyclone in Bangladesh was paid directly to non-governmental organisations. [169772]

**Mr. Malik:** The UK Government have provided £7 million for Cyclone Sidr relief in Bangladesh. At least 90 per cent. of this will be channelled to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for immediate and short to medium-term needs, with the remainder for disaster management coordination and operations.

The first tranche of £2.5 million was allocated through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide immediate assistance in the form of food, clean and safe water, medical treatment, and housing repairs.

An additional £2.5 million was announced by the Secretary of State on 23 November. This will be programmed through three international NGOs: Save the Children UK, Oxfam GB, and CARE, to focus on short to medium-term needs such as water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. A further £2 million announced by the Secretary of State on 28 November, will also be allocated to support the short to medium-term response by improving access, provision of non-food items such as blankets, disaster management coordination, and the restoration of livelihoods. A significant proportion of this money will be programmed through NGOs, such as Oxfam GB for the provision of non-food items and BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) for livelihoods.

### Burma: Human Rights

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation of the Karen people in Burma. [171063]

**Mr. Malik:** Like many others in Burma, Karen people are suffering from the repressive rule of the Burmese military government—including restrictions on movement, arbitrary taxation and forced labour. Severe economic mismanagement has deprived Burma of the economic growth enjoyed by its South East Asian neighbours, and investment in public services has been minimal. A third of the population lives below the poverty line. Those in conflict areas, of which Karen State is one, face further human rights abuses by the Burmese military, and on occasion by the ethnic armed groups. As a consequence of the conflict, there are 500,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Eastern Burma, the majority of whom are Karen—and their humanitarian plight is particularly severe. DFID provides assistance to IDPs using community-based groups from inside Eastern Burma, and cross-border to the most vulnerable. DFID also provides support to Burmese refugees, mostly Karen, in Thailand.

### China: Bears

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided to *(a)* Animals Aid Foundation and *(b)* China Wildlife Conservation Association in relation to bear bile farming in China. [169363]

**Mr. Malik:** We have not provided any support to either organisation.

### Colombia: Overseas Aid

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of UK assistance to Colombia is provided for projects which are not related to the Colombian security forces in 2007-08. [171071]

**Mr. Malik:** The parliamentary ombudsman has upheld the UK Government's decision not to make public precise details of our counter narcotics assistance, as to do so would jeopardise the effectiveness of that dangerous work and the safety of the British and Colombian personnel involved. As such, it is not possible to say what proportion of UK assistance to Colombia for projects was not related to the security forces.

DFID channels most of its development assistance to Colombia through the World Bank, the EU, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the UN. DFID trust funds with IADB specifically support six current projects in Colombia: citizen monitoring in urban governments, presidential town meetings, strengthening the auditor general, supporting community councils, job promotion in cities, and supporting indigenous small miners. In addition DFID funds a number of UK NGOs, and work on the Poverty reduction strategy.

Direct UK project assistance in Colombia is mainly funded by the FCO's Global Opportunities Fund and the Global Conflict Prevention Pool. It reflects the UK's key priorities of tackling the illegal drugs trade and improving the human rights situation. The FCO has recently placed on its website a schedule of UK human rights-related project activity:

http://www.fco.gov.uk.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168744]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the percentage turnover of staff was in his Department in *(a)* the last 12-month period and *(b)* the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169039]

**Mr. Malik:** The Department for International Development employs both home civil servants and locally engaged staff, who work in our network of overseas offices on local terms and conditions of service. Comprehensive data on the turnover of staff in this latter group is not held centrally.

The turnover of home civil servants in the 2006-07 financial year was 9.5 per cent.; and over the two-year period covering the 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years was 20 per cent. Turnover has been calculated as the number of leavers in the period, expressed as a percentage of the total number of staff in post at the beginning of that period.

### Health

**Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department of Health on the Government's strategy on global health. [166986]

**Mr. Malik:** Officials at DFID are in regular contact with the Department of Health as work to develop the Global Health Strategy proceeds.

My colleague Baroness Vadera sits on the Inter-Ministerial Group on Strengthening Health in Developing Countries which oversees this important agenda and will complement and reinforce DFID's existing health strategy—including the recent initiative that launched the International Health Partnership (IHP).

In addition to discussions about the IHP, we are considering the role that access to medicines might play in the light of the issues raised at the recent meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property in Geneva.

### Latin America: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to *(a)* finalise and *(b)* publish his Department's regional assistance plan for Latin America for 2008-2011. [171551]

**Mr. Malik:** Spending on Latin America, as on all DFID's programmes, will be decided by January as part of the Resource Allocation Round. DFID's Latin America strategy will be finalised after those decisions.

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial assistance his Department will allocate to each Latin American country in 2008-09. [171552]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID is currently developing detailed plans for allocating its budget over the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11 following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review announced in October. Individual country programme allocations will not be finalised until early in 2008.

### Somalia: Politics and Government

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received about the humanitarian situation in Somalia; what the response of his Department has been; and if he will make a statement. [166991]

**Mr. Malik:** UN agencies and international NGOs active in Somalia report that up to 500,000 people, almost exclusively civilians, have been displaced as a result of the conflict in the south—197,000 since the beginning of October. They are mostly accommodated in temporary encampments close to the capital Mogadishu, and face shortages of shelter, food, water and, especially but not exclusively for those injured in the fighting, healthcare. A further 50,000 have been displaced by the border conflict between Somaliland and Puntland in the north. Total displacement of the Somali population, including those affected by earlier conflict and natural disasters, is estimated by the UN to be 1 million. Agencies delivering relief supplies face regular harassment, extortion and bureaucratic obstruction, and the International Community, including the UK, has made strong representations to the Somali authorities to enable relief work to flow freely.

So far in 2007 DFID has committed £8.6 million to help those worst affected by the fighting and the ongoing humanitarian needs, including £1 million since mid-October. We keep in close contact with UN agencies and our partners on the ground to ensure that DFID's humanitarian response fits the immediate needs of the most vulnerable. Our humanitarian adviser visited part of the affected area last week, to assess the situation. He will make another visit to the worst affected area during the next week, after which we will consider what further urgent support we might provide.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Agriculture: Disease Control

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers were prosecuted for breaches of biosecurity in each of the last five years. [168720]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Local authorities are responsible for the enforcement of animal health legislation, including any resulting prosecutions, and report annually to DEFRA. A consolidated report is laid before Parliament each year.

Prosecutions relating to biosecurity may arise from breaches under a range of legislation including; the Animal Gatherings (England) Order 2006, the Disease Control (England) Order 2003, the Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (England) (No. 3) Order 2003, emergency animal health measures such as those to control outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and avian influenza, and the equivalent Welsh legislation.

The number of prosecutions resulting from biosecurity breaches reported in 2005 and 2006 are as follows:

| | *Prosecutions arising from breaches of biosecurity* |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 16 |
| 2005 | 9 |

The reports provided by local authorities prior to 2005 do not identify which prosecutions relate to biosecurity offences specifically. The following table lists the number of prosecutions brought each year under the aforementioned legislation:

| | *Number of prosecutions under relevant Orders* | *Prosecutions arising from 1981 Animal Health Act but not defined further* |
|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 36 | 70 |
| 2003 | 75 | 0 |
| 2002 | 82 | 77 |

The figures given in the aforementioned tables are for all prosecutions; they cannot be broken down to farmers alone.

### Agriculture: Lancashire

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claimants there are under the single payment scheme in Ribble Valley constituency; and how many farms this represents. [170001]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* Detailed analysis of the number of claimants there are under the Single Payment Scheme in Ribble Valley constituency and the number of farms this represents is not available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

### Agriculture: Subsidies

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure full payment of the single farm payment to farmers in England in December 2007. [168190]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has a formal target to pay 75 per cent. by value of valid 2007 single payment scheme (SPS) claims by 31 March 2008 and 90 per cent. by 31 May 2008.

The Government's primary concern remains that the SPS system should be robust and stable, so that RPA can deliver an improved, reliable service to the farming industry. A range of measures are being undertaken to that end and we are determined that the timing of 2007 SPS payments neither undermines those efforts nor introduces unacceptable disallowance risks. However, Ministers have agreed that RPA will aim to make more full payments to more farmers earlier than last year.

### Animal Welfare: Codes of Practice

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 28W, on animal welfare: codes of practice, what the membership is of the working group on gamebirds; and what the areas of expertise of each member are. [170137]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Members of the working group include representatives of the game bird industry, welfare groups and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust. They were chosen because of their expertise in the various husbandry and management techniques involved in the breeding and rearing of game birds, so ensuring that all welfare-related issues were fully debated.

### Animal Welfare: EU Action

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Agriculture and Fisheries Council held in Luxembourg on 22 to 23 October 2007, when he expects a legislative framework to implement the animal health strategy to be implemented; and if he will make a statement. [170948]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Commission is currently consulting the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament on its Communication on "A new Animal Health strategy for the European Union". During 2008, the Commission is expected to produce an action plan setting out specific proposals to implement the strategy in the period up to 2013.

### Arable Farming: East of England

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the financial state of arable crop farming in the Eastern region. [168764]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The following table shows Farm Business Income[1] for arable farms between 2003-04 and 2006-07 in the eastern region. Income forecasts for 2007-08, to be published at the end of January 2008, will reflect the value of the 2007 harvest.

[1] For non corporate businesses, Farm Business Income represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings. For corporate businesses it represents the financial return on the shareholders' capital invested in the farm business.

*Farm business income for cereal and general cropping[1] farms in the eastern region*

£

| *March/ February* | *Cereals* | *General cropping* | *All farm types* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 80,900 | 90,100 | 67,100 |
| 2004-05 | 47,800 | 72,900 | 51,400 |
| 2005-06 | 48,900 | 48,600 | 51,200 |
| 2006-07 | 78,000 | 74,400 | 66,100 |

[1] Farms greater than 0.5 Standard Labour Requirement

*Source:*
Farm Business Survey.

### Avian Influenza: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on accommodation for his Department's officials at Ickworth Hotel, per room, during the recent visit in connection with the avian influenza outbreak in Suffolk; for how long officials stayed in the hotel; and how many officials stayed there. [169409]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* Animal health staff stayed at the Ickworth Hotel at the agreed Government rate of between £95 and £110 per room. Thirty officials stayed at the hotel for a total of 90 nights' accommodation between 13 and 23 November. Altogether, 1,653 nights' accommodation were booked in the area from 13 November at more than 20 hotels.

In an emergency, a large number of staff from around the UK need to be found hotel rooms near to the local disease control centre at very short notice which can be less than a day. DEFRA employs the services of an external provider to ensure that the most appropriate accommodation is secured and provides the best value for money for the taxpayer as these costs are met under current arrangements passed on to the industry.

### Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture: Finance

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what level of funding he plans to provide to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [170896]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department has committed the following minimum levels of funding to CEFAS over the next five years:

| | *Minimum funding (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 30.9 |
| 2009-10 | 30.9 |
| 2010-11 | 29.8 |
| 2011-12 | 28.8 |
| 2012-13 | 28.8 |

An additional £1.1 million has also been committed to support CEFAS's ongoing transformation.

### Construction: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to encourage the building and construction industry to cut carbon emissions in its activities. [168791]

**Mr. Timms** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

We are currently developing, with the building and construction industry, a joint industry/government strategy for sustainable construction. A draft strategy was published in July and is currently available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page40642.html

Public consultation on this strategy closed on 30 November and the government response will be published by the end of February 2008.

### Departmental Assets

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what Departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [164494]

**Jonathan Shaw:** For reasons of commercial sensitivity it is not possible to itemise the net book value and expected sale revenue of each asset currently planned for disposal. However the Department is taking professional advice to ensure value for money and to maximise the return on these disposals.

The Department currently anticipates total receipts from the sale of assets of approximately £9 million in 2007-08; £36 million in 2008-09; £10 million in 2009-10 and £5 million in 2010-11. The disposals planned for the latter three years will form part of the Department's Asset Management Strategy to be published in December this year.

Estimates of sale proceeds are subject to fluctuations in the property market and cannot be guaranteed, nor can it be stated with certainty exactly when these sales will take place.

It should also be noted that the figures apply to the wider DEFRA network, not just to the core Department. The assets in question are surplus or under-utilised land and property. The largest anticipated sale is that of DEFRA-owned land and buildings at Guildford, and we expect this to account for approximately one third of the income from asset disposals over the period 2007-08 to 2010-11.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on management consultants working on projects in the West Country since 2002. [168627]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I refer the hon. Member to Tables 7, 8, and 9 (pp190-195) of the Department's departmental report 2007 (Cm 7103), presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in May 2007.

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the spending review 2004 targets; on what date each was initiated; how much each was expected to contribute to the target; how much was saved by each; and if he will make a statement. [164151]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The projects that comprised DEFRA's efficiency portfolio are set out in our efficiency technical note. Each project has a baseline

year against which savings are measured. This was published on the H M Treasury website in December 2005

at http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/busplan/spending-review/pdf/efficiencynote-0511.pdf.

Progress against our SR04 targets is reported in our departmental report . The most recent (published in June 2007) is at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/deprep/2007/2007-deptrepport.pdf.

An update on progress will be included in the DEFRA autumn performance report due to be published on 13 December.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress his Department is making towards meeting the Gershon efficiency savings targets. [166463]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Progress against our SR04 targets is reported in our departmental report. The most recent (published in June 2007) is at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/deprep/2007/2007-deptreport.pdf.

An update on progress will be included in the DEFRA autumn performance report due to be published on 13 December.

### Departmental Expenditure

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the considerable budgetary problems as a result of unfunded pressures in the 2006-07 financial year referred to in the Government's response to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2006-07, page 2, were; and if he will make a statement. [165483]

**Jonathan Shaw:** As with other large organisations, DEFRA faces new financial pressures each year which require constant review and re-adjustment to spending plans. The last financial year (2006-07) brought several such pressures that meant the Department had to reduce its original resource budgets by around £200 million. These pressures stemmed from:

RPA's running costs (about 11 per cent.), including administration of the single payment scheme for both 2005 and 2006;

Avian influenza (about 5 per cent.);

surplus capital charge budget no longer being available to fund programme expenditure due to new tighter rules governing public expenditure (around 30 per cent.);

costs deferred from 2005-06, not as a result of underspending, but arising from pressure on the budget that year (around 45 per cent.);

other miscellaneous pressures (about 9 per cent.).

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167230]

**Jonathan Shaw:** A list that provides the names of all manufacturers of software used by DEFRA, as collected and recorded by IBM (the Department's strategic IT supplier since its IT services were outsourced in October 2004), has been placed in the Library of the House of Commons.

### Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169034]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The turnover rates for DEFRA and each of the agencies for all leavers and for voluntary resignations (including transfers to other Government Departments) only is shown in the following table:

*Percentage*

| | *1 November 2006 to 31 October 2007* | | *1 November 2005 to 31 October 2007* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All leavers* | *Resignations* | *All leavers* | *Resignations* |
| DEFRA | 19.8 | 4.7 | 14.5 | 4.3 |
| Animal Health | 11.1 | 4.3 | 11.2 | 4.0 |
| Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science[1] | 8.9 | n/a | 8.6 | n/a |
| Central Science Laboratories | 17.2 | 7.1 | 17.6 | 7.8 |
| Government Decontamination Service | 4.8 | 4.8 | 11.9 | 9.5 |
| Marine Fisheries Agency | 14.4 | 4.4 | 11.7 | 4.6 |
| Pesticides Safety Directorate | 4.6 | 2.6 | 6.3 | 3.6 |
| Rural Payments Agency | 18.8 | 11.0 | 20.5 | 10.9 |
| Veterinary Laboratories Agency | 10.6 | 5.8 | 10.9 | 6.3 |
| Veterinary Medicines Directorate | 4.2 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 2.3 |

[1] CEFAS turnover rates cover the periods 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 and 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007.

### Departmental Standards

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164873]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA's 2007 autumn performance report will be published electronically on 13 December 2007 and made available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/deprep/default.htm.

Copies will also be available in the House Library on that day.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which telephone contact centres are the responsibility of his Department; what mechanisms are in place to monitor their effectiveness; and how many people have been employed in each of those centres in each year since they were established. [166544]

**Jonathan Shaw:** My Department is directly responsible for the main DEFRA helpline only, which is available for general telephone and e-mail enquiries. Some of DEFRA's Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies also have operational responsibility for more specific customer contact services.

The present arrangements for running the DEFRA helpline, mean that the number of telephone advisers varies to reflect the level of customer demand. Before these arrangements were implemented, earlier this year, the DEFRA helpline routinely employed eight advisers.

The DEFRA helpline generates both daily and weekly statistics, which enable my officials to monitor its performance. Regular meetings are held to review day-to-day operational issues. My officials also have access to live call-traffic information.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department collects and monitors in relation to the telephone contact centres for which his Department is responsible. [166545]

**Jonathan Shaw:** My Department routinely collects and monitors the following management information from the DEFRA helpline:

(i) data on call volumes, including the number of calls received, answered and abandoned;

(ii) information on call "types", organised by subject; and

(iii) information on the duration of calls.

Other information may be gathered for specific purposes. For example, if people use the helpline to report dead wild gulls, waders, ducks, geese or swans, or groups of dead birds in connection with avian influenza, their telephone contact details and the location of the dead bird(s) will also be collected.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much each telephone contact centre for which his Department is responsible has *(a)* cost and *(b)* generated in income in each financial year since their establishment. [166546]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The annual running costs of the DEFRA helpline since 2003-04 are set out in the following table:

| *Financial year* | *Total cost of running the DEFRA helpline (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 247,123 |
| 2004-05 | 247,862 |
| 2005-06 | 230,344 |
| 2006-07 | 295,638 |

Prior to 2003-04, the costs of the DEFRA helpline were embedded within the overall costs of the Department's Library and Translation Services. Disaggregated costs are not available for that period.

My Department receives no income from the DEFRA helpline. Call charges are shared between the service providers of the helpline and the caller.

### Fisheries: Subsidies

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set out the Government's proposals for the application of the European Fisheries Fund in the United Kingdom for the period 2007 to 2013; and when he intends to submit such proposals to the European Commission. [171234]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Government's proposals for the application of the European Fisheries Fund in the United Kingdom for the period 2007 to 2013 will be set out in the draft UK operational programme as required by Article 17 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1198/2006.

I intend to submit the UK operational programme to the Commission following a public consultation on the draft. This will be a 12 week consultation which I expect to commence early in 2008.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government support Eyemouth and the Berwickshire coast being designated as a fisheries dependent area eligible for assistance from the European Fisheries Fund. [171235]

**Jonathan Shaw:** This is a matter for the Scottish Executive.

### Institute for Animal Health: Pirbright

**Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who signed the most recent licence authorising the holding or working with restricted pathogens in respect of *(a)* the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright and *(b)* the Merial site, Pirbright. [168165]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The licences were signed by a DEFRA official experienced in laboratory inspections. Merial's licence was restored following detailed DEFRA and Health and Safety Executive inspections that confirmed the terms of the licence (including operating procedures and installation of security measures) had been fully met, and that it was safe for vaccine production to recommence.

Following an incident announced by DEFRA on 22 November, Merial's Special Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) licence was suspended. The incident was contained in the closed, re-lined drainage system, and there was no release of virus to the environment. An inspection team is producing a full report for the Acting Chief Veterinary Officer, and further action will then be considered.

### Irish Sea: Fisheries

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Irish Discard Project to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [170912]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I will again be seeking additional days at sea for vessels participating in the Irish Sea data enhancement pilot. We expect the pilot to produce results by the end of next year and will review progress in the spring.

### Marine and Fisheries Directorate

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the long-term objectives are of the Marine and Fisheries Directorate; and if he will make a statement. [170928]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The purpose of DEFRA's Marine and Fisheries Directorate is to support the Government's work to achieve its marine vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

### Marine Fisheries Science Group

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which stakeholders form the membership of the Marine Fisheries Science Group; and if he will make a statement. [170887]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The DEFRA Marine Fisheries Science Advisory Group was set up in 2006 to advise DEFRA on its marine fisheries science programme. The Group is chaired by John Shepherd, Professor of Oceanography at Southampton university, and its membership is made up of individuals invited in a personal capacity, on the basis of their expertise and previous contributions to discussions of relevant issues.

Group members come from a wide range of sectors, including: DEFRA and other devolved administrations, Government laboratories such as the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and Fisheries Research Services, academic universities, Sea Fisheries Committees, fisher's organisations, fish producers organisations, individual fishers, The Sea Fish Industry Authority, The Food and Drink Federation, The Sea Anglers Conservation Network, and conservation groups such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Marine Conservation Society.

### Organic Farming: East of England

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many organic farmers there were in each county in the East of England in each year since 1997. [169968]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information on the number of organic farms is given in the following table. This shows the number of organic farms in the eastern England Government office region between 2004 and 2007 (based on data collected at January of each year). Prior to 2004 data are unavailable.

*Number of organic farms in the eastern region of England*

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bedfordshire | 12 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| Cambridgeshire | 43 | 47 | 43 | 44 |
| Essex | 52 | 48 | 51 | 50 |
| Hertfordshire | 10 | 12 | 9 | 11 |
| Norfolk | 78 | 84 | 78 | 88 |
| Suffolk | 63 | 58 | 64 | 67 |
| Eastern England | 258 | 259 | 253 | 267 |

*Source:*
DEFRA Statistics

### Science Advisory Council: Biofuels

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Science Advisory Council last met to discuss *(a)* biofuels and *(b)* bovine tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement. [168716]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The DEFRA Science Advisory Council (SAC) last discussed biofuels for transport on 17 October 2007. Minutes of the meeting will be published on the SAC website by mid-December.

The new DEFRA Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) agreed to report to Council on his progress in identifying priorities for future SAC advice, to assist with SAC's long-term work planning. The CSA will prepare a strategy paper outlining these priorities, which will be considered in light of DEFRA's long-term research strategy, for SAC's next meeting on 29 January 2008. The paper will include comment on whether SAC advice may be required on biofuels, and if so in what capacity.

SAC last formally discussed bovine tuberculosis (bTB) on 19 July 2007. Minutes of the meeting are available on the DEFRA website.

During the last month, SAC has been asked for further comment on the science of this issue.

In October 2007 following the publication of the report "Bovine Tuberculosis in Cattle and Badgers" the DEFRA CSA requested advice via the SAC Chair, on the science issues raised by this report.

All current SAC members have been asked to consider whether any new information, not previously available or considered by SAC since their last formal advice on this issue, impacts on the advice they had already given. This advice will be published on the DEFRA SAC website in due course.

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice he *(a)* has sought and *(b)* has been provided with by the Science Advisory Council on (i) biofuels and (ii) bovine tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement. [168717]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Secretary of State has not directly requested or sought advice on biofuels or bovine tuberculosis (bTB) from the DEFRA Science Advisory Council (SAC).

In 2005, a small sub-group of the Council (SAC-bTB), was asked by the DEFRA Chief Science Adviser (CSA) to

"Consider the Literature Review of research on bovine tuberculosis (bTB) and the comments from the peer review thereof, and provide an overview assessment for the CSA on the quality of the available scientific evidence".

This included an assessment of the extent to which the research was fit for purpose, robust and could be trusted by stakeholders, This also included a wider strategic consideration of any scientific issues, including uncertainties or unknowns, that might not have been considered by the reviews, and that may be relevant in preparing advice to Ministers.

### Sea Fisheries Committees

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his plans are to modernise sea fisheries committees (SFCs); whether they include proposals to change the composition of the membership of SFCs; and if he will make a statement; [170892]

(2) what reforms he is planning to change the composition of the membership of Sea Fisheries Committees; and if he will make a statement. [170924]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Marine Bill White Paper sets out proposals to reform Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) in England. The proposals include a clear purpose and duties, strengthened byelaw-making and enforcement powers and enhanced funding arrangements. Under these proposals, the composition and membership of reformed SFCs will be:

i. local authority members (one third);

ii. Marine Management Organisation (one seat);

iii. Environment Agency (one seat); and

iv. Natural England (one seat).

The balance will be made up of persons acquainted with the needs and opinions of the fishing community and persons with knowledge of or expertise in marine environmental matters. The maximum number of members shall be 21.

SFCs in Wales are the responsibiiity of Welsh Assembly Government.

### Seas and Oceans: Biodiversity

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department provided for marine biodiversity science in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170934]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Department directly funds marine biodiversity science through its research and development programme for biodiversity. Since 1997, expenditure on marine science has grown from around £180,000 to well over £800,000 per year. A summary of approximate expenditure per year is outlined as follows:

| | *Expenditure (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 847,000 |
| 2006-07 | 870,000 |
| 2005-06 | 831,000 |
| 2004-05 | 692,000 |
| 2003-04 | 449,000 |
| 2002-03 | 774,000 |
| 2001-02 | 479,000 |
| 2000-01 | 415,000 |
| 1999-2000 | 207,000 |
| 1998-99 | 189,000 |
| 1997-98 | 184,000 |

A significant amount of the funding has been spent on cetacean research, in particular, the UK Standings Scheme and work to determine the abundance and distribution of cetaceans in UK waters. Funds have also been used to assist in expanding our knowledge of the range of habitats found in our seas. This has included the funding of marine surveys in areas beyond 12 nautical miles to identify Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and the development of UK Seamap; a series of marine landscape maps which are based on a modelling exercise to predict marine landscape types likely to be found in UK marine waters. Such research outputs will be useful in marine spatial planning.

In addition, marine biodiversity science is undertaken indirectly via other programmes within the Department. It is, however, harder to separate out the exact proportion of the spend which could be regarded as biodiversity research back to 1997. It is estimated that, this year alone, a further £400,000 could be regarded as marine biodiversity science research from the Marine Environment research and development programme.

The figures in the table do not include marine biodiversity science expenditure by the Conservation Agencies, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Natural England. These two bodies are responsible for the implementation of marine biodiversity policy in UK offshore waters and territorial waters of England respectively. DEFRA provides funds to these agencies for the delivery of marine nature conservation policy. Both of these organisations fund relevant science to ensure the effective delivery of policy. For instance, in 2007-08, the JNCC were provided with £1 million to complete offshore survey work, and a considerable proportion of this budget will be spent on commissioning offshore survey of areas believed to be important for conservation purposes.

### Sugar Beet

**Mr. Paice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he or his Ministers have had with the EU Commissioner or her officials on the possible use of sugar beet compensation funding for growers who were forced to cease production as a result of the closure of York and Alscott factories. [170141]

**Jonathan Shaw** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* Amendments to Council Regulations on sugar were discussed and agreed at the Agriculture Council in September. Subsequent to this, my noble Friend, the Minister of State for Sustainable Food and Farming and Animal Health (Lord Rooker), wrote to the

Commissioner about the implementing regulation, which was being discussed at the Management Committee.

British Sugar have made an application for restructuring aid, which includes a proposal based on consultation with the National Farmers' Union for the distribution of any aid due to growers and previous growers. The application is being considered.

### Tortoises: Imports

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of wild tortoises imported from Slovenia in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [169545]

**Joan Ruddock:** No estimate has been made. Since Slovenia joined the European Union in May 2004, figures for the movement of tortoises from Slovenia to the UK ceased to exist. Tortoises can be moved freely within the Community. However, if the tortoises are being used for commercial purposes and are of a species controlled at the highest level within the EU (Annex A) then they will require certificates that have been issued under Article 10 of the European Wildlife Trade Regulations, granted by the member state where the specimen is located.

The UK has issued 8,700 such certificates for Annex A tortoises originating in Slovenia since May 2004. All of these have been for captive bred tortoises. No certificates have been issued since May 2004 for wild taken tortoises.

### UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects a UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy to be implemented; and if he will make a statement. [170933]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS) will reach the end of its 'transition phase' in January 2008. By then, the underlying concepts of the UKMMAS will have been embedded across the Government, devolved administrations, agencies, and other organisations responsible for the collection of marine monitoring data.

As we enter the 'business as usual' phase of the UKMMAS, post January 2008, work will continue in ensuring its requirements can be met by all in the marine monitoring community. It is during this phase of the UKMMAS where the real benefits of improved co-ordination of marine monitoring activities will become apparent.

Instigating such a fundamental step-change in our approach to marine monitoring has, at times, been challenging. Support for the process has always been excellent and benefits are already becoming apparent by way of improved efficiencies and community building.

### White Fish: Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the cod recovery plan; and if he will make a statement. [170911]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The UK has recently provided the Commission with its views on the future of the cod recovery mechanism, copies of which I have arranged to be placed in the Libraries of the House. In the meantime, we are exploring with them and the UK industry, possible changes to the scheme for 2008, designed to reduce cod mortality in the short-term, which does not simply involve blunt cuts in days at sea. We will return to the longer term position next year in the context of the ongoing review.

### White Fish: Fishing Catches

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he decided to keep the minimum landing size for bass at 36cm; and if he will make a statement. [170885]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I announced my decision to retain the minimum landing size for bass at 36 centimetres on 25 October 2007. My decision was made following the meeting I convened on 1 October 2007 to discuss this issue with representatives from the sea angling and commercial fishing sectors. Details of my announcement are set out in the autumn 2007 edition of 'Fishing Focus', available in the Library of the House.

### Wildlife: Trade

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to tackle the trade in wildlife on the internet in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* globally. [169546]

**Joan Ruddock:** In the UK, the Government are working with various organisations such as the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW), HM Revenue and Customs and the police to establish the extent of trade taking place over the internet that is illegal, and to find effective ways to tackle this. We are also working with the trade, website owners, enforcement experts and other stakeholders to establish codes of practice for internet providers and users.

Globally, we are working with other parties to the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) to carry forward the internet trade proposal agreed at the CITES 14th conference of parties (CoP14). This proposal will gauge the scale and nature of illegal internet trade in wildlife globally and then consider ways to tackle illegal internet trade.

We are working closely with enforcement agencies, NGOs, internet providers and website owners to contribute to the review from a UK perspective and the UK Government have already provided the CITES Secretariat with £15,000 to take this work forward.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Alcoholic Drinks: Public Order Offences

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from *(a)* the Association of Chief Police

Officers and *(b)* the Police Federation on the proposed introduction and implementation of alcohol disorder zones. [170424]

**Mr. Coaker:** There have been no representations received from the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Police Federation on the proposed introduction and implementation of alcohol disorder zones since the consultation detailed in the Explanatory Memorandum laid with the associated Statutory Instrument in Parliament on 21 November 2007.

### Arrests: Drugs

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* charged with possession of Class (i) A, (ii) B and (iii) C drugs in each police force area in each year since 1997. [167016]

**Mr. Coaker:** The arrests collection undertaken by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, drugs offences etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

### Cambridgeshire Alcohol Project

**Mr. Djanogly:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the applicability of the methods utilised in the Cambridgeshire Alcohol Project on a national scale. [171231]

**Mr. Coaker:** We recognise and greatly welcome the success of Cambridgeshire's award winning "Think 21" alcohol project in driving down the sale of alcohol to under age customers and have begun to assess the best ways in which to promote this scheme nationally.

This work is being taking forward in conjunction with recent national confiscation of alcohol and tackling under-age sales of alcohol campaigns as well as the ongoing responsible alcohol sales campaigns which clamp down on irresponsible retailers who break the law by selling alcohol to children while highlighting the law on under age drinking in public places.

### Commissioner of the Police for the Metropolis: Complaints

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representatives she has received from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public calling for the (i) removal and (ii) resignation of the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis; and if she will make a statement. [167398]

**Mr. McNulty:** Home Office Ministers have received seven letters from right hon. and hon. Members about this matter. These enclosed or referred to three letters from members of the public. Home Office Ministers have received seven further letters direct from members of the public. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's letter of 6 November to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) made it clear that Sir Ian Blair has her full support.

### Crime: Firearms

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to receive the report she has commissioned from the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers, on gun and gang crime. [169484]

**Mr. Coaker:** We have received this report from the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers, and it is currently being considered by the ministerial taskforce for the tackling gangs action programme.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which community projects have been identified to receive the £1 million of additional funding announced on 9 September to help combat gun and gang crime. [169486]

**Mr. Coaker:** The initial funding has been allocated to: *(a)* police led partnership initiatives in Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham and London, including mediation and mentoring services; and *(b)* agencies involved in a day of action focused on operations to disrupt gang activity and the supply of illegal firearms and ammunition. Decisions on the allocation of the remaining funds should be made by Christmas, and this will include providing some funding to build the capacity of community groups to deliver effective interventions.

### Departmental Correspondence

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of inquiries received by her Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167369]

**Mr. Byrne:** The Home Office reports its ministerial correspondence performance annually to the Cabinet Office. The report publishes details for the Home Office and its agencies separately. Details for the calendar year 2006 were published by way of a written ministerial statement on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 101WS, as follows:

*Ministerial correspondence 2006*

| | *Target for reply (working days)* | *Number of letters received* | *Percentage of replies within target* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Home Office (non BIA correspondence) | 15 | 9,583 | 93 |
| Criminal Records Bureau | 10 | 378 | 93 |
| Border & Immigration Agency (BIA)[2] | 20 | 41,534 | 78 |

*Ministerial correspondence 2006*

| | Target for reply (working days) | Number of letters received | Percentage of replies within target |
|---|---|---|---|
| Identity and Passport Service | 10 | 679 | 68 |

[1] Formerly immigration and nationality directorate (IND)

In the same year, performance on public letters in the Home Office was 94 per cent. replied to within the 20 working day target, while 93 per cent. of e-mails were similarly replied to.

Performance in 2006 across the periods requested is provided in the following table.

| | Number of cases received | Within 1 week | Within 14 days | Within 28 days | Within 2 months | Within 3 months | Over 3 months | Percentage Over 1 year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Home Office (excluding BIA)* | | | | | | | | |
| MP's letters | 9,588 | 30 | 78 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Public letters | 14,516 | 51 | 64 | 92 | 99 | 99 | 1 | 0 |
| Public e-mails | 14,330 | 54 | 67 | 91 | 98 | 99 | 1 | 0 |
| *Border and Immigration Agency (BIA)* | | | | | | | | |
| MP's letters | 41,534 | 10.90 | 29.50 | 78.10 | 94.40 | 97.20 | 100 | n/a |
| Public letters | n/k | n/k | n/k | n/k | n/k | n/k | n/k | n/k |
| Public e-mails | 196,813 | 100 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

*Identity and Passport Service HQ (IPS)*

| | Number of cases received | Dealt with within service level agreement target date (percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| MP letters | 679 | [1]68 |
| Public letters | 40,334 | [1]99.1 |
| Public e-mails | 29,433 | [2]95.8 |

[1] 10 working days.
[2] Two working days.

IPS records are not held in such a way as to be able to provide the information requested on correspondence dealt with within longer periods. Manual records would have to be checked and disproportionate costs would be incurred.

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)

| | Number of cases received | Dealt with within service level agreement target date (percentage) |
|---|---|---|
| MP letters | 378 | [1]93 |
| Public letters | 40,334 | [1]99.1 |
| Public e-mails | 29,433 | [2]95.8 |

[1] 10 working days.
[2] Two working days.

CRB records are not held in such a way as to be able to provide the information requested on correspondence dealt with within longer periods. Manual records would have to be checked and disproportionate costs would be incurred.

## Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

**Susan Kramer:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been for using a handheld mobile telephone while driving since the offence was introduced, broken down by *(a)* year and *(b)* police authority. [169321]

**Mr. Coaker:** Driving while using a hand held mobile phone became a specific offence from 1 December 2003.

Available information on prosecutions from 2003 to 2005 is provided in the table. 2006 data will be available next year.

Offences are also dealt with by the offer of a fixed penalty. In 2003, there were 1,888 tickets paid, in 2004 there were 73,976 tickets paid and 126,768 tickets were paid in 2005.

*Fixed penalty notices issued[1] and court proceedings[2] at the magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[3] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-05*

*Number of offences*

| | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Police force area | Fixed penalty notices issued | Total court proceedings[2] | Fixed penalty notices issued | Total court proceedings[2] | Fixed penalty notices issued | Total court proceedings[2] |
| Avon and Somerset | 0 | 0 | 1,902 | 19 | 2,502 | 47 |
| Bedfordshire | 10 | 1 | 579 | 5 | 944 | 16 |
| Cambridgeshire | 0 | 0 | 219 | 7 | 1,347 | 19 |
| Cheshire | 0 | 0 | 2,689 | 2 | 2,891 | 15 |
| Cleveland | 13 | 0 | 1,066 | 4 | 1,955 | 7 |

*Fixed penalty notices issued[1] and court proceedings[2] at the magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[3] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-05*

*Number of offences*

| | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Police force area* | *Fixed penalty notices issued* | *Total court proceedings[2]* | *Fixed penalty notices issued* | *Total court proceedings[2]* | *Fixed penalty notices issued* | *Total court proceedings[2]* |
| Cumbria | 13 | 0 | 528 | 24 | 1,021 | 41 |
| Derbyshire | 13 | 0 | 978 | 17 | 1,501 | 52 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 345 | 0 | 796 | 19 | 1,482 | 27 |
| Dorset | 0 | 0 | 521 | 0 | 657 | 3 |
| Durham | 0 | 0 | 504 | 1 | 963 | 2 |
| Essex | 0 | 0 | 2,431 | 28 | 4,369 | 64 |
| Gloucestershire | 147 | 0 | 632 | 1 | 1,208 | 4 |
| Greater Manchester | 0 | 0 | 8,166 | 73 | 12,904 | 154 |
| Hampshire | 54 | 0 | 2,032 | 18 | 4,078 | 40 |
| Hertfordshire | 0 | 0 | 2,526 | 6 | 3,923 | 70 |
| Humberside | 0 | 0 | 381 | 4 | 1,202 | 25 |
| Kent | 15 | 0 | 1,707 | 0 | 4,829 | 0 |
| Lancashire | 34 | 0 | 1,719 | 17 | 3,079 | 48 |
| Leicestershire | 17 | 0 | 759 | 12 | 284 | 28 |
| Lincolnshire | 7 | 0 | 1,529 | 9 | 2,514 | 15 |
| London, City of | 45 | 0 | 137 | 7 | 1,647 | 14 |
| Merseyside | 0 | 0 | 1,836 | 22 | 5,684 | 27 |
| Metropolitan Police | 681 | 0 | 13,581 | 203 | 18,035 | 658 |
| Norfolk | 17 | 0 | 887 | 20 | 904 | 21 |
| Northamptonshire | 1 | 0 | 297 | 0 | 971 | 0 |
| Northumbria | 56 | 0 | 1,271 | 32 | 2,409 | 22 |
| North Yorkshire | 5 | 0 | 720 | 18 | 1,289 | 35 |
| Nottinghamshire | 0 | 0 | 653 | 8 | 1,637 | 26 |
| South Yorkshire | 28 | 0 | 1,978 | 12 | 3,978 | 25 |
| Staffordshire | 12 | 0 | 264 | 11 | 2,346 | 21 |
| Suffolk | 42 | 0 | 978 | 7 | 1,707 | 22 |
| Surrey | 164 | 0 | 2,213 | 9 | 3,575 | 91 |
| Sussex | 0 | 0 | 546 | 1 | 1,105 | 2 |
| Thames Valley | 25 | 0 | 3,716 | 24 | 7,111 | 126 |
| Warwickshire | 0 | 0 | 621 | 7 | 918 | 17 |
| West Mercia | 0 | 0 | 2,200 | 17 | 5,246 | 59 |
| West Midlands | 144 | 0 | 3,864 | 61 | 5,065 | 109 |
| West Yorkshire | 0 | 0 | 2,368 | 11 | 4,272 | 47 |
| Wiltshire | 0 | 0 | 700 | 21 | 1,226 | 29 |
| Dyfed Powys | 0 | 0 | 363 | 13 | 628 | 16 |
| Gwent | 0 | 0 | 517 | 0 | 938 | 4 |
| North Wales | 0 | 0 | 999 | 3 | 424 | 17 |
| South Wales | 0 | 0 | 1,603 | 16 | 2,030 | 25 |
| England and Wales | 1,888 | 1 | 73,976 | 789 | 126,768 | 2,090 |

[1] Covers tickets paid where there is no further action.
[2] Includes cases where a fixed penalty notice was originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.
[3] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3). Introduced 1 December 2003.
Notes:
1. 0 = nil.
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Fixed Penalty Notices Issued Collection and Court Proceedings Database, both held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (Ministry of Justice, M and SDC416-07)

## Drug Seizures

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many seizures of *(a)* methamphetamine, *(b)* cannabis, *(c)* cocaine and *(d)* heroin were made by police forces in England and Wales in each year since 1997; and what the total quantity of each substance was seized. [166842]

**Mr. Coaker:** Available data for each year between 1997 and 2005 have been published in area tables of the annual 'Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales' series and are shown in the following tables. Seizures of methamphetamine cannot be separately identified from the total for amphetamines.

Drugs are seized in a variety of forms but in table 2 quantities are shown as weights (kg), apart from quantity of cannabis plants which is shown as number of plants.

Conversion factors are applied to estimate the overall quantity for each drug. From 2005 these conversion factors have been revised and quantities data for 2005 are not directly comparable to those for previous years.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and other agencies. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

*Table 1: Number of seizures[1] of controlled drugs by selected drug type: England and Wales 1997 to 2005*

| *Drug type* | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amphetamines[2] | 16,187 | 16,290 | 11,510 | 6,032 | 5,924 | 5,785 | 5,790 | 6,108 | 7,360 |
| Cannabis:[3] | | | | | | | | | |
| Herbal | 24,814 | 27,987 | 23,605 | 24,437 | 28,532 | 36,911 | 32,858 | 38,595 | 69,766 |
| Resin | 63,537 | 67,792 | 57,962 | 49,454 | 46,626 | 44,662 | 40,976 | 32,727 | 38,572 |
| Plants | 3,568 | 2,696 | 2,157 | 1,893 | 1,711 | 2,199 | 2,680 | 2,780 | 4,098 |
| Total[4] | 73,450 | 86,540 | 92,210 | 78,350 | 73,220 | 74,250 | 79,600 | 74,613 | 111,212 |
| Cocaine | 2,930 | 4,114 | 4,619 | 4,254 | 4,806 | 4,515 | 5,750 | 6,787 | 10,711 |
| Heroin | 10,444 | 12,593 | 12,644 | 12,971 | 14,517 | 12,543 | 10,460 | 10,980 | 13,243 |

[1] As a seizure can involve more than one drug, figures for individual drugs cannot be added together to produce totals.
[2] Methamphetamine seizures cannot be separately identified from total number of amphetamine seizures.
[3] With effect from 1 April 2004 the Home Office issued guidance that gave an additional disposal option of a formal warning for cannabis possession. The widespread and growing use of this new disposal is thought to have been a likely contributory factor in the increase in the number of police seizures for cannabis in 2005.
[4] As a seizure can involve more than one form of cannabis, the 'cannabis total' figure is not the sum of its different forms.

*Table: Quantity[1, 2] of controlled drugs seized by selected drug type: England and Wales 1997 to 2005*

| Drug type | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amphetamines[3] | 574 | 485 | 844 | 908 | 963 | 682 | 836 | 931 | 964 |
| Cannabis: | | | | | | | | | |
| Herbal (kg) | 8,184 | 1,368 | 1,588 | 9,255 | 7,183 | 3,823 | 13,909 | 2,789 | 2,905 |
| Resin (kg) | 60,794 | 12,488 | 10,789 | 27,499 | 20,011 | 8,657 | 27,861 | 21,676 | 25,045 |
| Plants (number) | 77,573 | 70,017 | 53,058 | 45,462 | 67,679 | 52,118 | 80,498 | 88,674 | 208,357 |
| Total[4] | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Cocaine (kg) | 273 | 123 | 440 | 1,549 | 997 | 161 | 1,912 | 1,266 | 1,006 |
| Heroin (kg) | 421 | 319 | 1,292 | 1,946 | 2,682 | 1,595 | 1,038 | 1,131 | 770 |

n/a = not applicable
[1] All quantities are in kilograms except for ecstasy-type (doses) and cannabis plants (numbers).
[2] Drugs are seized in a variety of forms but, where possible, amounts have been converted to weights (kg) and, for cannabis plants, number of plants. Conversion factors have been revised for 2005 data. 2005 quantity data should not be directly compared to those for previous years.
[3] Quantity of methamphetamine cannot be separately identified from total amount of amphetamines seized.
[4] It is not possible to combine cannabis weights (kg) and amount (plants) to give a 'cannabis total quantity'

## Drugs: Telephone Services

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will give a breakdown of callers to the FRANK helpline by category of relevant drug in the latest period for which figures are available. [168907]

**Dawn Primarolo:** I have been asked to reply.

Data for the breakdown of calls to the FRANK Helpline by category of relevant drug taken from call dates between 1 April 2007 to 1 November 2007, are outlined in the following table:

| *Description* | *Count* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| Cannabis | 6,617 | 25.39 |
| Cocaine | 5,728 | 21.98 |
| Drugs (not specific) | 3,696 | 14.18 |
| Heroin | 2,304 | 8.84 |
| Ecstasy | 1,552 | 5.96 |
| Crack | 1,043 | 4.00 |
| Amphetamines | 848 | 3.25 |
| Other | 767 | 2.94 |
| Alcohol | 762 | 2.92 |
| Methadone | 389 | 1.49 |
| Ketamine | 385 | 1.48 |
| Anabolic Steroids | 211 | 0.81 |
| Prescription drugs | 204 | 0.78 |
| LSD | 183 | 0.70 |
| Crystal Meth/ Methamphetamines | 158 | 0.61 |
| Volatile substances | 148 | 0.57 |
| Hallucinogenic Mushrooms | 136 | 0.52 |
| Subutex | 136 | 0.52 |
| Valium/Diazepam | 133 | 0.51 |

| Description | Count | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Alkyl Nitrates | 123 | 0.47 |
| Other Opiates | 101 | 0.39 |
| GHB | 74 | 0.28 |
| Misuse of other drugs | 74 | 0.28 |
| Other Benzodiazepines | 70 | 0.27 |
| Herbal Highs | 45 | 0.17 |
| Naltrexene | 34 | 0.13 |
| Tobacco | 32 | 0.12 |
| Temazapam | 29 | 0.11 |
| Rohypnol | 28 | 0.11 |
| Hepatitis C | 21 | 0.08 |
| PCP | 11 | 0.04 |
| Viagra | 11 | 0.04 |
| Khat | 6 | 0.02 |
| Total | 26,059 | 100.00 |

## Police: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in *(a)* London and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166922]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information is in the following tables. Police officer figures for London boroughs were collected centrally from 2003.[1]

*Number of police officers for London and London boroughs: 1997 to 2007[1]*

*Table A: Police officers (FTE) for London: 1997 to 2002[1]*

| | Year ending 31 March: | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| London[2] | 27,536 | 26,919 | 26,851 | 26,217 | 25,581 | 26,987 |

*Table B: Police officers (FTE) for London and London boroughs: 2003 to 2007[1]*

| | Year ending 31 March: | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 360 | 384 | 419 | 426 | 427 |
| Barnet | 522 | 541 | 561 | 554 | 551 |
| Bexley | 315 | 338 | 383 | 361 | 371 |
| Brent | 619 | 683 | 679 | 667 | 672 |
| Bromley | 417 | 459 | 489 | 484 | 493 |
| Camden | 719 | 794 | 850 | 854 | 812 |
| City of Westminster | 1,565 | 1,637 | 1,617 | 1,572 | 1,561 |
| Croydon | 624 | 659 | 692 | 694 | 684 |
| Ealing | 652 | 697 | 686 | 673 | 681 |
| Enfield | 490 | 538 | 575 | 560 | 582 |
| Greenwich | 604 | 583 | 605 | 615 | 632 |
| Hackney | 673 | 766 | 789 | 767 | 744 |

*Table B: Police officers (FTE) for London and London boroughs: 2003 to 2007[1]*

| | Year ending 31 March: | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 513 | 516 | 526 | 553 | 562 |
| Haringey | 633 | 682 | 683 | 717 | 689 |
| Harrow | 302 | 333 | 342 | 347 | 354 |
| Havering | 340 | 343 | 383 | 380 | 383 |
| Hillingdon | 458 | 484 | 498 | 506 | 495 |
| Hounslow | 467 | 472 | 510 | 501 | 519 |
| Islington | 623 | 680 | 683 | 685 | 678 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 528 | 575 | 562 | 574 | 568 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 272 | 275 | 298 | 307 | 294 |
| Lambeth | 968 | 941 | 984 | 994 | 953 |
| Lewisham | 571 | 625 | 646 | 649 | 619 |
| Merton | 304 | 339 | 352 | 353 | 377 |
| Newham | 692 | 781 | 782 | 781 | 758 |
| Redbridge | 393 | 440 | 459 | 471 | 467 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 284 | 285 | 287 | 294 | 303 |
| Southwark | 838 | 869 | 891 | 873 | 846 |
| Sutton | 266 | 280 | 291 | 307 | 306 |
| Tower Hamlets | 686 | 760 | 761 | 775 | 756 |
| Waltham Forest | 486 | 533 | 546 | 556 | 543 |
| Wandsworth | 557 | 612 | 582 | 607 | 599 |
| City of London | 434 | 445 | 438 | 438 | 412 |
| London[2] | 28,792 | 30,588 | 31,586 | 31,823 | 31,564 |

[1] All figures are full-time equivalents (FTE) rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] The London totals comprise officer totals for Metropolitan police and City of London police. They are 'not' totals of the London boroughs because they also include Heathrow and Central Services. Excludes officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

## Prostitution

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many men were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* prosecuted for crimes arising from them paying for sex in each of the last five years. [165133]

**Mr. Coaker:** The arrests collection undertaken by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform only provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

The following table sets out the number of men proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in England and Wales between 2001 and 2005 for offences related to paying for sex.

*Number of male persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected sexual offences, England and Wales 2001-05[1, 2]*

| Offence description | | Principal statute | Proceeded against | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 2700 | Soliciting by a man | Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.32 | 10 | 7 | 15 | 6 | 1 |
| 7104 | Paying for sex with a female child under 16—no penetration | Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.47(1,2,4b) | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 1 | — |
| 7105 | Paying for sex with a male child under 16—no penetration | Sexual Offences Act 2003 S:47(1,2,45) | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | — | 3 |
| 7114 | Paying for sex with a female child under 16—penetration | Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.47(1 afb1ci,2,4a,6) | [3]— | [3]— | [3]— | 1 | — |

1. *[Official Report, 20 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 5MC.]*

*Number of male persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected sexual offences, England and Wales 2001-05*[1, 2]

| | Offence description | Principal statute | Proceeded against | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 16501 | Kerb-crawling | Sexual Offences Act 1985 Sec 1. | 914 | 1,047 | 944 | 836 | 710 |
| 16502 | Persistent soliciting of women for the purpose of prostitution | Sexual Offences Act 1985 Sec 2. | 97 | 119 | 69 | 64 | 41 |
| | Total | | 1,021 | 1,173 | 1,028 | 908 | 755 |

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Data not applicable (2003 Sexual Offences Act did not come into force until 2004).

## Rape: Drugs

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* reports of, *(b)* arrests for and *(c)* convictions for drug rape were made in London in each of the last 10 years. [169813]

**Mr. Coaker:** The information requested is not collected centrally. Data on offences of rape recorded by the police are collected by the Home Office. Data on arrests and those convicted are collected by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. However, it is not possible to separately identify drug rapes in either statistical series.

## Special Constables

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [166929]

**Mr. McNulty:** The available information is in the following tables. Police officer figures for London boroughs were collected centrally from 2003.

*Number of special constables: 1997 to 2007*

*Table A: Special constables for London and England: 1997 to 2002*[1]

*Headcount*

| | Year ending 31 March: | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| London[2] | 1,800 | 1,358 | 1,202 | 814 | 817 | 716 |
| England | 18,732 | 17,159 | 15,396 | 13,512 | 11,949 | 10,897 |

*Table B: Special constables for London and England: 2003 to 2007*[1]

*Headcount*

| | Year ending 31 March: | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 14 | 14 | 10 | 21 | 28 |
| Barnet | 41 | 38 | 35 | 73 | 94 |
| Bexley | 27 | 74 | 81 | 103 | 101 |
| Bishopsgate | 20 | 28 | 27 | 32 | 35 |
| Brent | 28 | 29 | 27 | 29 | 19 |
| Bromley | 14 | 12 | 10 | 24 | 47 |
| Camden | 21 | 28 | 22 | 52 | 78 |
| Central Services | 19 | 20 | 27 | 41 | 114 |
| City of Westminster | 64 | 85 | 81 | 166 | 251 |
| Croydon | 23 | 17 | 14 | 20 | 36 |
| Ealing | 16 | 21 | 14 | 24 | 37 |
| Enfield | 25 | 20 | 17 | 23 | 30 |
| Greenwich | 16 | 17 | 7 | 42 | 44 |
| Hackney | 13 | 12 | 9 | 19 | 25 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 18 | 20 | 19 | 44 | 58 |
| Haringey | 12 | 13 | 14 | 27 | 43 |
| Harrow | 16 | 13 | 10 | 22 | 52 |
| Havering | 26 | 29 | 33 | 41 | 52 |
| Heathrow | 9 | 7 | 12 | 16 | 17 |
| Hillingdon | 19 | 15 | 15 | 22 | 38 |
| Hounslow | 20 | 18 | 15 | 23 | 21 |
| Islington | 35 | 39 | 35 | 32 | 40 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 15 | 14 | 20 | 37 | 51 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 16 | 15 | 13 | 32 | 40 |
| Lambeth | 21 | 20 | 20 | 35 | 42 |
| Lewisham | 14 | 13 | 9 | 33 | 42 |
| Merton | 17 | 17 | 17 | 21 | 19 |
| Newham | 18 | 16 | 15 | 23 | 42 |
| Redbridge | 19 | 17 | 16 | 34 | 54 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 21 | 19 | 17 | 25 | 36 |
| Snowhill | 21 | 24 | 24 | 32 | 30 |
| Southwark | 17 | 18 | 9 | 25 | 36 |
| Sutton | 7 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 25 |
| Tower Hamlets | 14 | 17 | 20 | 34 | 36 |
| Waltham Forest | 19 | 16 | 10 | 19 | 25 |
| Wandsworth | 19 | 15 | 21 | 34 | 68 |
| City of London | 41 | 52 | 51 | 64 | 65 |
| London | 734 | 796 | 749 | 1,291 | 1,815 |
| England | 10,449 | 10,359 | 11,285 | 12,431 | 13,221 |

[1] Figures for specials are counted in terms of headcount rather than full-time equivalent.

[2] The London totals comprise officer totals for Metropolitan police and City of London police. They are 'not' totals of the London boroughs because they also include Heathrow and Central Services. Excludes officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

## Swords and Daggers

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will introduce regulations to restrict the sale, re-sale and importation of samurai swords; and if she will make a statement. [170026]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Government issued a consultation paper in March 2007 seeking views on proposals to ban

samurai swords and other offensive weapons. We expect to publish a summary of responses to the consultation paper before the end of the year, which will set out the Government's intentions on introducing regulations to restrict the sale, re-sale and importation of samurai swords.

## HEALTH

### Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the findings of the Taylor Review into the financial management of Brent Primary Care Trust. [167561]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We have no plans to publish the findings of this review as this is a matter for the local national health service. However, we are informed by NHS London that the report has not yet been finalised and is going through due process.

I have asked the chair of Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust to write to the hon. Member regarding this matter.

### Dental Services

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to make adjustments to the distribution of units of dental activity across different dental functions in light of the experience of the April 2006 dental contracts. [169262]

**Ann Keen:** Units of dental activity are essentially banded courses of treatment, weighted according to the relative average complexity of the three dental charge bands. The current weightings are derived from the previous general dental services fee-scale. Each fee included an element which reflected the relative time taken for the procedure and the expenses incurred. The weighted averaging inherent in the new system means some courses of treatment will involve more time and expense than the average for that band, others less. There are no plans to change the distribution of the existing weighted courses of treatment. However dentists' working patterns under the new system are kept under review.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the April 2006 dental contract on the provision of maintenance dental activities, including screening for oral cancer, preventing decay and monitoring children's dental growth and need for orthodontics. [169263]

**Ann Keen:** Preventive as well as diagnostic treatments are included in a Band 1 course of treatment as set out in Schedule 1 to the NHS (Dental Charges) Regulations 2005 (SI. 2005/3477 as amended). Under a Band 1 course of treatment dentists are required to undertake a clinical examination and diagnosis. Diagnosis includes checking for signs of oral diseases such as oral cancer and any issues with developing teeth and face including any need for orthodontic correction. A Band 1 course of treatment also provides for instruction in the prevention of dental and oral disease including dietary advice and dental hygiene instruction, surface application as primary preventive measures of sealants and topical fluoride preparations where clinically indicated. Epidemiological surveys of child dental health are generally undertaken by salaried dentists employed by primary care trusts.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the April 2006 dental contract on *(a)* existing and *(b)* newly-established dental practices. [169264]

**Ann Keen:** Dentists providing general dental services (GDS) at 31 March 2006 were entitled to a contract under the new arrangements and a contract value based on historic GDS gross earnings. This was designed to protect those income levels for a three year transitional period. The Department is not aware of significant differences in experience between existing and newly established providers of primary care dental services under the new dental system.

**Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the total shortfall of units of dental activity (UDAs) was among NHS dentists in England who did not undertake the contracted number of UDAs in the financial year 2006-07; [169265]

(2) what average number of units of dental activity (UDAs) undertaken was as a percentage of the contracted number of UDAs for NHS dentists in England in the financial year 2006-07. [169266]

**Ann Keen:** Data released by the Dental Services Division of the Business Service Authority show that the total shortfall for national health service dental contracts delivering less than 100 per cent. of contracted activity in 2006-07 was 5.3 million units of dental activity. 94.8 per cent. of total contracted units of dental activity were delivered in 2006-07.

*Notes:*

1. The data are available by NHS dental contract. A contract may cover one dentist or a number of dentists.

2. The data provided relate to contracts open for the whole of 2006-07.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* dentists and *(b)* orthodontists provided services to the NHS in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust. [169284]

**Ann Keen:** Numbers of national health service dentists at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) level as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Information at parliamentary constituency level is available in Annex G.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-worforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The numbers of NHS dentists at PCT and SHA level as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the

NHS "Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

This report is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The inclusion of dentists on trust led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

The numbers quoted in the above reports are headcounts and do not differentiate between full- and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

In both of these reports, it is not possible to separately identify dentists undertaking orthodontic work.

Orthodontist information is only separately identifiable within the Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) of which PCTs are not a part. The following table shows HCHS data for England and SHA areas.

*HCHS : Orthodontic dental staff by SHA area, England as at 30 September each year*

*Number (headcount)*

| | | 2002 | | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *All staff* | *Of which: Consultant* | *All staff* | *Of which: Consultant* | *All staff* | *Of which: Consultant* | *All staff* | *Of which: Consultant* | *All staff* | *Of which: Consultant* |
| England | | 508 | 161 | 522 | 178 | 521 | 180 | 552 | 206 | 544 | 189 |
| North East | Q30 | 30 | 11 | 37 | 10 | 33 | 9 | 35 | 9 | 36 | 7 |
| North West | Q31 | 65 | 21 | 62 | 20 | 62 | 25 | 68 | 25 | 65 | 26 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | Q32 | 68 | 26 | 67 | 28 | 68 | 31 | 64 | 27 | 59 | 24 |
| East Midlands | Q33 | 41 | 10 | 46 | 12 | 43 | 12 | 41 | 14 | 46 | 16 |
| West Midlands | Q34 | 55 | 12 | 54 | 15 | 52 | 15 | 54 | 19 | 62 | 19 |
| East of England | Q35 | 49 | 14 | 43 | 14 | 34 | 12 | 39 | 16 | 42 | 17 |
| London | Q36 | 82 | 26 | 82 | 31 | 85 | 29 | 120 | 49 | 89 | 31 |
| South East Coast | Q37 | 34 | 11 | 38 | 13 | 40 | 14 | 40 | 13 | 37 | 13 |
| South Central | Q38 | 28 | 13 | 35 | 17 | 31 | 14 | 35 | 15 | 37 | 16 |
| South West | Q39 | 56 | 17 | 58 | 18 | 73 | 19 | 56 | 19 | 71 | 20 |

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

The methodology and frequency for reporting workforce information are being reviewed. The purpose of the review is to ensure that, following experience of the first year of the new dental contract, figures provide an appropriate measure of the workforce, given the way that the workforce reporting system is being used by PCTs. An update on the review will be provided in the "NHS Dentals Statistics for England, Quarter 2, 30 September 2007" publication, which is due to be published in February 2008.

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people were registered with an NHS dentist in each year since 1997. [169677]

**Ann Keen:** The proportion of the population registered with an NHS dentist, in England, as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex B of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006".

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report was published on 23 August 2006 and has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Under the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a dentist to receive national health service care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period, for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of patients seen in the previous 24 months as a percentage of the population are available in Table C2 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2007-08 Quarter 1 30 June 2007" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007 and 30 June 2007.

This report, published on 28 November 2007, is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentstatsq10708

Both reports have been published by The Information Centre for health and social care.

## Dental Services: Finances

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account is taken in primary dental care service funding allocations of unmet demand for NHS dentistry provision. [166581]

**Ann Keen:** Primary care trusts (PCTs) were awarded devolved primary dental service funding allocations from 1 April 2006, based on the level of dental activity and costs observed in each area in the 12-month period October 2004 to September 2005, with appropriate additions to absorb subsequent annual contract value upratings, previously agreed service developments, and expected changes associated with the new ways of working fostered by the new dental contract. These

initial allocations allowed PCTs to sustain national health service provision in each area and honour the commitment to offer all serving dentists replacement contracts. These historical levels of expenditure reflected where dentists had previously chosen to set up in practice and how much NHS work they chose to do.

The new dental service reforms cannot correct historical imbalances in provision overnight, but by granting the NHS greater control they provide a stable base from which PCTs can plan further developments and use the flexibilities offered by the new contract to make the most effective use of dental resources. PCTs are best placed to assess factors such as the levels of unmet demand for NHS services in each locality, and can supplement provision for dentistry from within their total NHS resources if they consider this an appropriate local priority.

Based on PCTs' initial devolved dental allocations, NHS net expenditure on primary care dental services in 2006-07, after taking account of the contribution from patient charges, was over £400 million higher than in 2003-04, an increase over three years of 30 per cent. which has helped the NHS expand services in some areas that had previously struggled to attract NHS dentists. The Department is reviewing the basis of PCT dental allocations after the initial three-year transitional period for the new service arrangements ends in March 2009.

**Dental Services: Greater London**

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* 18 to 65-year-olds and *(b)* under 18-year-olds were registered for NHS dental treatment in (i) Uxbridge constituency, (ii) Hillingdon primary care trust and (iii) Greater London in each year since 1997. [169678]

**Ann Keen:** The numbers of patients registered with an NHS dentist at primary care trust and strategic health authority area are available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is available annually as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 and is broken down by children (aged 17 and under) and adults (aged 18 and over). Information is available at parliamentary constituency area in Annex C of this report.

This report, published on 23 August 2006, is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

**Departmental Public Expenditure**

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how his Department absorbed its full near-cash overspend in 2005-06 from within its central budget; [165688]

(2) how his Department's near-cash overspend in 2005-06 was incurred, broken down by main budget heading. [165689]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The national health service net deficit was the main reason for additional near-cash expenditure in 2005-06. The Department of Health's Departmental Report 2007 provides a breakdown of 2005-06 NHS resource expenditure across programme budgets.

As set out in the Budget 2006, there has been a re-profiling of the Department's budgets across the 2004 spending review years.

**Disabled: Social Security Benefits**

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet ministerial colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions to discuss the relationship between benefits paid to people with disabilities and the fuel costs incurred by such people because of their disability. [165437]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Fuel poverty is recognised by the Department as an important factor in contributing to excess winter deaths and poor health. It is recognised that disabled people are at high risk of the effects of fuel poverty, with potential negative impacts upon their health and well being. The increased costs of fuel over the last few years, makes it more difficult for people on disability benefits to pay for adequate heating. Therefore we will meet with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions to discuss the relationship between benefits paid to people with disabilities and the fuel costs incurred by such people because of their disability.

**Doctors: Loans**

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the ability of Foundation Year *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 doctors to make interest payments on their student loans. [164574]

**Ann Keen:** We have received no such representations. Student debt falls outside the remit of the Department.

**Doctors: Training**

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places were provided for registrar group doctors in 2007, broken down by region and specialty. [165686]

**Ann Keen:** The requested information has been placed in the Library.

**Eye Care Services Steering Group**

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the membership is of the Eye Care Services Steering Group; and how many times it has met. [166374]

**Ann Keen:** The Eye Care Services Steering Group has met nine times since its inception in 2002. The membership consists of representatives from the national health service, eye care professional bodies and trade associations, social services, voluntary sector and a representative from the General Optical Council.

**Heart Diseases: Medical Treatments**

**Dr. Desmond Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients undergoing

percutaneous coronary interventions received *(a)* a drug-eluting stent and *(b)* a bare metal stent in each year since 2003 in (i) England, (ii) each strategic health authority and (iii) each NHS trust. [165844]

**Ann Keen:** This information has been placed in the Library.

**Dr. Desmond Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average number of bed days spent in hospital by patients receiving *(a)* coronary artery bypass operations and *(b)* percutaneous coronary interventions was in each year since guidance on the use of coronary artery stents was issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2003 in (i) England, (ii) each strategic health authority and (iii) each NHS trust. [165856]

**Ann Keen:** This information has been placed in the Library.

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cardiac rehabilitation programmes there are, broken down by NHS trust. [166375]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not collect this information centrally. However, the British Heart Foundation and the British Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation maintain a voluntary register of cardiac rehabilitation programmes which holds details of around 340 programmes. Further details can be found on their website at:

www.cardiac-rehabilitation.net/

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will provide funding to the National Heart and Lung Institute for a study of gender bias in cardiac treatment. [166600]

**Ann Keen:** Implementation of the Government's research strategy Best Research for Best Health is resulting in an expansion of the Department's research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. These National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) programmes support high quality research of relevance and in areas of high priority to patients and the national health service. Any academic organisation can apply to be considered for funding. Details, including the scope of the programmes and the arrangements for making applications, are available on the NIHR website at: www.nihr.ac.uk. Funding awards are in all cases made after open, competitive, peer review.

### Heart Diseases: Transplant Surgery

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of using beating heart transplant technology in transplant units for one year; and if he will make a statement. [168317]

**Ann Keen:** We have made no estimate of the cost of using beating heart transplant technology in transplant units. It is for commissioners of heart transplant services to consider the clinical and cost effectiveness of any technology.

### Heart Diseases: Waiting Times

**Dr. Desmond Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on waiting times for cardiology treatment if the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's decision not to recommend treatment with drug-eluting stents in the NHS is upheld. [165845]

**Ann Keen:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is reviewing its October 2003 guidance on the use of drug-eluting stents for the treatment of coronary artery disease. NICE is currently considering the responses it has received from stakeholders during the recent consultation on its draft recommendations.

NICE expects to publish final guidance in March 2008. Waiting times for cardiology treatment are not expected to be affected by this publication next year, regardless of NICE's recommendations.

**Dr. Desmond Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of patients waiting for *(a)* coronary artery bypass operations and *(b)* percutaneous coronary intervention were treated within the target 18 week working time from referral to treatment in (i) England, (ii) each strategic health authority and (iii) each NHS trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [165846]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not collect this information centrally.

**Dr. Desmond Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for patients waiting for *(a)* coronary artery bypass operations and *(b)* percutaneous coronary interventions was in each year since guidance on the use of coronary artery stents was issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2003 in (i) England, (ii) each strategic health authority and (iii) each NHS trust. [165855]

**Ann Keen:** This information has been placed in the Library.

### Hospitals: Admissions

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mean age of patients admitted via accident and emergency was in 2005-06 in *(a)* England and *(b)* each primary care trust area. [162863]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The information has been placed in the Library.

### Hospitals: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is planning to take to enable *(a)* matrons and *(b)* ward sisters to report concerns about hospital cleanliness. [165719]

**Ann Keen:** The Chief Nursing Officer and the Director General of National Health Service Finance, Performance and Operations wrote to the Chief Executives of strategic health authorities, NHS trusts and Foundation Trusts on 1 November setting out the

requirements for local systems to ensure regular reporting to trust boards and for an escalation system to allow for nursing staff to raise their concerns.

### Hospitals: Food

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average daily cost to the public purse was of food provided to each hospital patient in the most recent period for which figures are available. [168202]

**Ann Keen:** Information is not collected in the precise format requested. However, in 2006-07 the average amount spent per patient meal was £2.83. This amount includes the cost of provisions and staff costs. Patients are expected to receive three main meals a day and the average total daily cost of providing food for hospital patients can therefore be estimated to be £8.49.

### Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the rates of antibiotic resistant infections in hospitals. [165311]

**Ann Keen:** We are continuing to build on the UK Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy and Action Plan which has three key interrelated elements: surveillance, prudent antimicrobial use and infection control. A copy has been placed in the Library. A number of our main activities are described as follows.

Our programme to tackle health care associated infections has produced three annual decreases in reported Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* blood stream infections. However, we are continuing to develop our surveillance system, and publish the results to support local actions. We have introduced, The Health Act 2006—Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections and developed the Saving Lives programme to help trusts improve infection control and prescribing. The latest version of Saving Lives includes a summary of best practice for antimicrobial prescribing which is available in the Library.

We also run a national campaign to increase awareness of antibiotic resistance and have a scientific advisory committee, the Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection, to cover these issues.

### Macular Degeneration: Drugs

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice is given by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence to primary care trusts on the prescribing of the drug Lucentis to treat Macular Disease; and if he will make a statement. [171174]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is currently appraising Lucentis (ranibizumab) and Macugen (pegaptanib) for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration. Final guidance to the national health service is expected in early 2008.

### Marfan Syndrome

**Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to raise awareness of Marfan syndrome among medical professionals. [169340]

**Ann Keen:** The Clinical Knowledge Summaries database which is available at www.cks.library.nhs.uk/ specifically set-up to provide clinical information for health professionals and patients, contains information on the diagnosis and treatment of Marfan syndrome.

### Maternity Services: Finance

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy periodically to review the funding of maternity services in those areas with live birth rates significantly above the national average; and if he will make a statement. [170721]

**Ann Keen:** Payment by Results is transforming the way key national health service services are funded by paying hospitals according to the number and complexity of cases treated. The tariff payment for births is therefore based on activity in a given area.

### Maternity Services: Standards

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the quality of *(a)* birth conditions and *(b)* training opportunities provided by each type of childbirth unit. [168189]

**Ann Keen:** It would be for primary care trusts (PCTs) to make such assessments when deciding how best to commission maternity services for their resident populations. However, our policy, as laid out in 'Maternity Matters', published in April this year, is to encourage PCTs to allow mothers as much choice as possible as to where they wish to give birth.

Maternity Matters also sets out clearly details about responsibilities for ensuring an adequate trained work force to provide maternity services while allowing mothers as much choice as possible.

### NHS: Reorganisation

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who has been invited to sit on the four national review groups contributing to Lord Darzi's review of the NHS; [166162]

(2) which patient groups will be involved in Lord Darzi's review of the NHS, including on the four national review groups on *(a)* constitution, *(b)* leadership, *(c)* workforce/education and *(d)* quality. [166163]

**Ann Keen:** Membership of the national working groups will be finalised shortly and details published. A wide range of stakeholder groups including patient groups will be involved in the groups and in other elements of the National Health Service Next Stage Review.

## NHS: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the effect on NHS staff numbers in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 of meeting the target that patients should not have to wait longer than 18 weeks for treatment. [165701]

**Ann Keen:** Service transformation, supported by the significant increase in the workforce since 1997, new ways of working and productivity gains, will enable 18 weeks to be delivered and sustained.

## Nurses: Schools

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts (PCTs) have at least one full-time year round qualified school nurse for each cluster or group of primary schools and related secondary schools; which PCTs do not have such provision; and if he will make a statement. [165790]

**Ann Keen:** The following table shows the number of primary care trusts (PCTs) and trusts who employ qualified school nurses who hold the Nursing and Midwifery Council Specialist Practice Qualification with an outcome in school nursing.

School nurses are generally employed by PCTs although some school nurses will be directly employed by both state and independent schools. The national health service workforce census does not capture these. A number of qualified school nurses will also work conterminously across PCTs boundaries but be directly employed by one single PCT.

In 2006 there were 1,129 school nurses with a school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 31.9 per cent since 2004.

*NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified school nurses[1] in England by strategic health authority area, by organisation and by contracted hours as at 30 September 2006*

| | | | | Headcount |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *All staff* | *Full-time* | *Part-time* | *Bank* |
| *England* | 1,129 | 223 | 886 | 20 |
| *North East Strategic Health Authority area* | 57 | 12 | 45 | — |
| City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust | 17 | 6 | 11 | — |
| County Durham PCT | 26 | 1 | 25 | — |
| Darlington PCT | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Gateshead PCT | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Northumberland Care Trust | 8 | 2 | 6 | — |
| Redcar and Cleveland PCT | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| *North West Strategic Health Authority area* | 223 | 39 | 181 | 3 |
| Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 6 | — | 6 | — |
| Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 5 | 1 | 4 | — |
| Blackpool PCT | 7 | 2 | 5 | — |
| Bolton PCT | 31 | 6 | 25 | — |
| Bury PCT | 17 | 2 | 15 | — |
| Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 11 | — | 11 | — |
| Central Lancashire PCT | 8 | 1 | 7 | — |
| Cumbria PCT | 38 | 5 | 33 | — |
| East Lancashire PCT | 12 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| Halton and St Helens PCT | 9 | 1 | 8 | — |
| Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 12 | 5 | 7 | — |
| Knowsley PCT | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| North Lancashire PCT | 5 | — | 3 | — |
| Oldham PCT | 9 | 2 | 7 | — |
| Stockport PCT | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Tameside and Glossop PCT | 30 | 5 | 25 | — |
| The Wirral Hospital NHS Trust | 12 | 2 | 10 | — |
| Warrington PCT | 9 | 1 | 8 | — |
| *Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area* | 204 | 39 | 165 | — |
| Barnsley PCT | 13 | 5 | 8 | — |
| Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT | 22 | 7 | 15 | — |
| Calderdale PCT | 11 | 1 | 10 | — |
| East Riding of Yorkshire PCT | 24 | — | 24 | — |
| Hull Teaching PCT | 8 | – | 8 | — |
| Kirklees PCT | 41 | 4 | 37 | — |
| Leeds PCT | 47 | 12 | 35 | — |
| North Lincolnshire PCT | 7 | 2 | | — |
| North Yorkshire and York PCT | 7 | — | 7 | — |
| Rotherham PCT | 8 | 4 | 4 | — |

*NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified school nurses' in England by strategic health authority area, by organisation and by contracted hours as at 30 September 2006*

| | All staff | Full-time | Part-time | Headcount Bank |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sheffield PCT | 15 | 2 | 13 | — |
| Wakefield District PCT | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| *East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area* | 45 | 10 | 34 | 1 |
| Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Derby City PCT | 4 | 4 | — | — |
| Derbyshire County PCT | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Leicester City Teaching PCT | 3 | 1 | 2 | — |
| Lincolnshire Teaching PCT | 4 | 1 | 3 | — |
| Northamptonshire Teaching PCT | 29 | 1 | 28 | — |
| Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT | 2 | 1 | — | 1 |
| *West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area* | 133 | 31 | 102 | — |
| Birmingham East and North PCT | 13 | 5 | 8 | — |
| Dudley PCT | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| North Staffordshire PCT | 13 | 4 | 9 | — |
| Shropshire County PCT | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Trust | 1 | — | 1 | |
| South Staffordshire PCT | 20 | 4 | 16 | — |
| Stoke on Trent Teaching PCT | 30 | 10 | 20 | — |
| Walsall Teaching PCT | 6 | 1 | 5 | — |
| Warwickshire PCT | 23 | 6 | 17 | — |
| Wolverhampton City PCT | 24 | 1 | 23 | — |
| *East of England Strategic Health Authority area* | 52 | 13 | 39 | — |
| Bedfordshire PCT | 5 | 2 | 3 | — |
| Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Cambridgeshire PCT | 3 | — | 3 | — |
| East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 4 | — | 4 | |
| Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust | 5 | — | 5 | — |
| Luton PCT | 4 | 3 | 1 | — |
| Mid Essex PCT | 12 | 1 | 11 | — |
| North East Essex PCT | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Peterborough PCT | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| West Essex PCT | 15 | 5 | 10 | — |
| *London Strategic Health Authority area* | 198 | 51 | 133 | 14 |
| Barking and Dagenham PCT | 3 | 1 | 2 | |
| Barnet PCT | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Brent Teaching PCT | 29 | 6 | 23 | — |
| Bromley PCT | 3 | — | — | 3 |
| Camden PCT | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| City and Hackney PCT | 3 | 2 | 1 | — |
| Ealing PCT | 3 | — | 3 | — |
| Enfield PCT | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Greenwich Teaching PCT | 21 | — | 21 | — |
| Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 13 | 10 | 3 | — |
| Haringey Teaching PCT | 3 | 3 | — | |
| Havering PCT | 15 | 1 | 14 | — |
| Islington PCT | 3 | 2 | 1 | — |
| Kingston PCT | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Lambeth PCT | 32 | 2 | 22 | 8 |
| Lewisham PCT | 15 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| Newham PCT | 8 | 5 | 3 | — |
| Redbridge PCT | 13 | 2 | 11 | — |
| Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 4 | — | 4 | — |
| Southwark PCT | 11 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| Tower Hamlets PCT | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Wandsworth PCT | 9 | 1 | 8 | — |
| Westminster PCT | 2 | 2 | — | — |

*NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified school nurses[1] in England by strategic health authority area, by organisation and by contracted hours as at 30 September 2006*

| | All staff | Full-time | Part-time | Headcount Bank |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area* | 89 | 11 | 78 | — |
| East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT | 14 | — | 14 | — |
| Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT | 6 | 4 | 2 | — |
| Hastings and Rother PCT | 15 | 3 | 12 | — |
| South Downs Health NHS Trust | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Surrey PCT | 12 | 1 | 11 | — |
| West Kent PCT | 3 | — | 3 | — |
| West Sussex Teaching PCT | 38 | 2 | 36 | — |
| *South Central Strategic Health Authority area* | 60 | 2 | 58 | — |
| Berkshire East Teaching PCT | 16 | 1 | 15 | — |
| Berkshire West PCT | 17 | — | 17 | — |
| Hampshire PCT | 4 | 1 | 3 | — |
| Oxfordshire PCT | 23 | — | 23 | — |
| *South West Strategic Health Authority area* | 68 | 15 | 51 | 2 |
| Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 7 | — | 6 | 1 |
| Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT | 17 | 4 | 13 | — |
| Devon PCT | 22 | 2 | 20 | — |
| Dorset PCT | 7 | 2 | 5 | — |
| North Bristol NHS Trust | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| North Somerset PCT | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Somerset PCT | 3 | 1 | 2 | — |
| Torbay Care Trust | 7 | 4 | 3 | — |
| United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust | 3 | 1 | 2 | — |

[1] Qualified school nurses hold the NMC specialist Practice Qualification with an outcome in school nursing—which is a recordable qualification on the NMC register. *Source:* The Information Centre for health and social care non—medical workforce census.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been made centrally available to meet the target of having a school nurse in each primary care trust by 2010; and how many school nurses and school health assistants were employed by each primary care trust in England in each of the last five years. [165791]

**Ann Keen:** Central funding of £20 million was made available in 2006-07 and £22 million 2007-08.

Tables showing the number of school nurses and school health assistants have been placed in the Library. School health assistants are included in levels one and two in the tables.

### Organs: Donors

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are on the Register of Organ Donors. [168320]

**Ann Keen:** As of 27 November 2007, 14,875,956 people were registered on the Organ Donor Register. This represents around 24 per cent. of the population. Work continues to increase the number of individuals on the Organ Donor Register. with the aim of having 16 million people registered by 2010.

### Ritalin: Children

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 837-8W to the hon. Member for Yeovil, on ritalin: children, if he will break down the number of children prescribed ritalin in each year since 1999 by primary care trust. [169168]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** Information is not available in the format requested.

### Specialist Nurses

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to reimburse private employers for the cost of specialist nurse visits. [165561]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has no plans to reimburse private employers with the cost of specialist nurse visits. Local trusts are free to determine how these visits are funded.

### Spinal Injuries

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the domestic heating needs of persons suffering from high lesion spinal cord injuries; and if he will make a statement. [165438]

**Ann Keen:** We have made no assessment of the domestic heating needs of those living with high lesion spinal cord injuries.

### Suffolk NHS Trust: Manpower

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* dentists and *(d)* non-medical staff were employed in Suffolk NHS Trust in each of the last five years. [166150]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested can be found in the following table.

*National health service staff in the West Suffolk hospitals NHS trust by main staff group as at 30 September each specified year*

| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Headcount 2006[1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total staff | 2,596 | 3,073 | 3,140 | 3,068 | 2,825 |
| All Medical and Dental staff | 215 | 240 | 274 | 283 | 285 |
| Medical staff | 212 | 236 | 266 | 273 | 281 |
| Dental staff | 3 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 4 |
| Total non-Medical staff | 2,381 | 2,833 | 2,866 | 2,785 | 2,540 |
| Professionally qualified clinical staff | 1,175 | 1,343 | 1,296 | 1,307 | 1,228 |
| Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff | 860 | 1,001 | 1,013 | 986 | 919 |
| Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff | 315 | 342 | 283 | 321 | 309 |
| Qualified Allied Health Professions | 139 | 143 | 143 | 141 | 130 |
| Qualified Healthcare Scientists (ST) | n/a | n/a | 62 | 67 | 70 |
| Other Qualified Scientific, therapeutic and technical staff (T) | 176 | 199 | 78 | 113 | 109 |
| Support to clinical staff | 834 | 965 | 1,005 | 971 | 863 |
| Support to doctors and nursing staff | 770 | 888 | 839 | 835 | 745 |
| Support to ST and T staff | 64 | 77 | 166 | 136 | 118 |
| NHS infrastructure support | 372 | 525 | 565 | 507 | 449 |
| Central functions | 112 | 112 | 111 | 99 | 100 |
| Hotel, property and estates | 220 | 368 | 381 | 332 | 297 |
| Managers and senior managers | 40 | 45 | 73 | 76 | 52 |

n/a = not applicable.

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years figures is estimated to be less than one per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

*Note:*

The numbers of healthcare scientists were not collected until 2004. Prior to this they were collected with other ST and T.

*Sources:*

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

### Transplant Surgery: Waiting Lists

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are on a waiting list for a transplant of each type of organ in each primary care trust area. [167644]

**Ann Keen:** This information has been placed in the Library.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan Compact

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether an assessment has been made of the effectiveness of existing arrangements for the strategic co-ordination of the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact; and if he will make a statement. [167422]

**David Miliband:** The UN and Afghan government co-chair the Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB), which includes all the major donors. The JCMB was established to ensure benchmarks set in the Compact are met. We continue to support UN efforts to provide the necessary impetus to ensure the board remains responsive, effective and committed. The JCMB last met in Kabul on 3 October 2007 and will next meet in February 2008.

### Ballistic Missile Defence

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Government were contacted by the United States to request use of Menwith Hill as part of its missile defence system; and if he will make a statement. [166066]

**David Miliband:** The request from the US to use RAF Menwith Hill as part of the US missile defence system was made in a letter to my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary on 29 June 2007.

### Beijing: Olympic Games

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the freedoms that journalists are likely to have at the Beijing Olympics next year; what assessment he has made of whether such freedoms are likely to be in line with *(a)* international norms and *(b)* commitments made by China in the bidding process for the Olympic games; and if he will make a statement. [166065]

**David Miliband:** We welcome the regulations implemented by the Chinese Government on 1 January, which lift restrictions on foreign correspondents in China up to and including the Olympics. We continue to urge China to make the regulations permanent, and to ensure greater media freedom, including for

domestic journalists in line with international standards. My right hon. Friend the Minister for the Olympics and for London did so during her visit to Beijing from 11 to 15 November. The commitments made by Olympic hosts are a matter for the International Olympic Committee.

**Bombs**

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will call for a definition of cluster munitions to be banned under the Oslo process encompassing both dumb and smart cluster munitions. [169784]

**Dr. Howells** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* There is no internationally agreed definition of a cluster munition, or of a distinction between "dumb" and "smart". A definition will be the key element to negotiate in any future instrument, both in the Oslo process and in the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. We believe the focus should be on banning those cluster munitions that pose the greatest risk to civilians: those without target discrimination or an in-built self-destruct/self-deactivation mechanism.

**Burma: Human Rights**

**Mr. MacDougall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation of the Karen people in Burma. [171064]

**Meg Munn:** We remain concerned about the situation in Karen State. Attacks carried out by the Burmese army on civilians in northern and western Karen State have been particularly intense over the past two years and have resulted in a significant increase in the number of internally displaced people and refugees on the Thai/Burmese border.

We have repeatedly called for a halt to such offensives and have urged both the military regime and the Karen National Union to intensify their efforts to find a peaceful settlement that will bring about a permanent end to the conflict. We support Aung San Suu Kyi's statement of 8 November, released through the UN Secretary-General's special envoy, Professor Ibrahim Gambari, calling for a genuine national dialogue between the Government, Opposition parties and ethnic groups in Burma.

**Burma: Sanctions**

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 313W, on Burma: sanctions, when he expects the report by EU heads of missions in Rangoon requested by the presidency into sanctions on Burma to be complete. [167249]

**David Miliband:** We have asked the EU Presidency to expedite the report so it can be considered before the next EU General Affairs and External Relations Council due to take place on 10 December.

**Christmas**

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171439]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold dedicated accounts for official expenditure of this nature and the information requested by the hon. Member could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

**Colombia: Drugs**

**Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department provided to the Colombian authorities for counter-narcotics operations in each year from 2004 to 2007; and what such assistance will be provided for 2008. [171069]

**Dr. Howells:** Preventing the importation of cocaine into the UK from Colombia is a top priority for the UK's international counter-narcotics efforts. The UK works closely with the Colombian authorities to disrupt trafficking and to interdict consignments of illicit drugs.

In the period 2004 to 2007, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has invested in various counter-narcotics projects in Colombia through its Global Opportunities Fund's Drugs and Crime Programme of some £1.5million. These projects have helped to build capacity among Colombian law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. Projects have covered subjects such as best practice in forensics, anti-money laundering and financial investigation techniques, judicial process and the provision of chemical analysis equipment at Colombian airports.

The FCO has also supported drugs awareness campaigns in Colombian schools. In addition, Colombia has benefited from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's Latin American projects that the UK has co-funded to improve institutional capacity across the region.

No decision has yet been made on what assistance might be provided for 2008.

The UK does not work with Colombia in isolation. We take a broad regional approach to tackling the trade in illicit drugs, through a mixture of political engagement, capacity building and law enforcement support in producer, transit and consumer countries. This includes working with Governments of other producer and transit countries in Latin America, as well as with Governments in countries along the main trafficking routes for drugs from Latin America (especially via the Caribbean and West Africa).

**Democratic Republic of Congo: Sanctions**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on

Democratic Republic of Congo, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166069]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

EU member states do not systematically share detailed information concerning the value of funds they have identified and frozen. However, they are legally obliged to freeze all funds and economic resources belonging to persons and entities listed under the sanctions regime. It is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to these persons and entities.

The reported balance of UK frozen funds in relation to UN and EU sanctions on the Democratic Republic of Congo amounts to £4,721.00.

### Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169035]

**Meg Munn:** Over the 12 months to 1 November 2007, the number of UK-based civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) fell from 6,135 to 6,104. During this period 475 staff left the FCO. This represents 7.8 per cent. of the average work force over the period.

Over the 24 months to 1 November 2007, the number of UK-based civil servants fell from 6,108 to 6,104. During this period 980 staff left the FCO. This represents 16 per cent. of the average work force over the period.

All these figures include staff working in FCO Services and Wilton Park, the two executive agencies of the FCO. We are not able to calculate staff turnover for these two agencies separately from the FCO totals.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164927]

**David Miliband:** The code of conduct for special advisers states that

> "In order to enable special advisers to work effectively, Departments may allocate permanent civil servants to provide support of a non-political nature".

Two civil servants provide full-time support to the special advisers. Office costs will be accounted for in the 2007-08 departmental annual report and accounts.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Winter Supplementary Estimates (HC 29), if he will break down his Department's *(a)* main estimate and *(b)* winter supplementary estimate provision by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms. [166849]

**David Miliband:** In the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Main Estimate 2007-08, all subheads are near cash with the exception of A1 and F2. The subhead A1 consists of £798,280,000 near cash and £156,719,000 non-cash. The subhead F2 of £50,000,000 is completely non-cash. The total non-cash element is £206,719,000. The total non-cash figure can be found in the Part II: Resource to cash reconciliation table in the main estimate, it is the figure shown as "Total accruals to cash adjustments" (£206,719,000).

Similarly, in the FCO's winter supplementary estimate 2007-08, all subheads are near cash with the exception of A1 and F2. The subhead A1 consists of £815,302,000 near cash and £156,719,000 non-cash. The subhead F2 of £50,000,000 is completely non-cash. Total non-cash expenditure is unchanged from the main estimate at £206,719,000.

Please note that data taken from supply estimates or resource accounts are not necessarily readily compatible with a near-cash/non-cash split, which is used only within the departmental expenditure limit budgetary controls applied by HM Treasury.

### Iran: Sanctions

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 318W, on Iran: sanctions, which EU working groups will be considering further sanctions measures against Iran before the December General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting; and if he will make a statement. [167248]

**David Miliband:** Discussions on further EU measures against Iran would be carried out in the Political and Security Committee and the working group covering the Middle East, the Committee on the Middle East and Gulf (COMEM) reinforced by non-proliferation experts from the Committee on Non-Proliferation (CONOP).

### Iraq: Resettlement

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Iraqi civilians have worked for the British Government since the invasion of Iraq in 2003; how many of these were contracted for a period of *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* six to 12 months and *(c)* 12 months or more; and if he will make a statement. [163413]

**David Miliband:** Many thousands of Iraqis have worked for the Government since 2003. They have worked for the Government either directly or via contractors. Information on the length of service of the employees is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Papua: Human Rights

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent representations he has made to the Government of Indonesia on the situation in West Papua; [170719]

(2) if he will make representations to the government of Indonesia on upholding the right to freedom of expression and assembly in West Papua. [170720]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed Papua with the Indonesian Government. However, I met the governor of Papua, Barnabus Suebo, when he visited London on 25 October. We discussed the situation in Papua, including human rights and the implementation of the Special Autonomy Law. Our embassy in Jakarta regularly discusses human rights issues, including in Papua, with the Indonesian Government. The human rights situation in Indonesia has improved considerably in recent years, and President Yudhoyono is continuing efforts to push through reforms, including to the security sector. We will continue to raise these issues with the Indonesian Government.

### MI6

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement about the work and function of the IOps section of MI6. [169549]

**David Miliband:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), the then Foreign Secretary gave to him on 14 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2138W.

### Nuclear Disarmament

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the Government voted against the resolution on decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons in the United Nations First Committee on Disarmament. [171324]

**Dr. Howells:** The United Kingdom provided an 'Explanation of Vote' (EoV) in a statement to the United Nations First Committee. This noted that we do not subscribe to the basic premise of the resolution that the world is at risk due to large numbers of nuclear weapons at dangerously high levels of alert. A copy of the EoV will be placed in the Library of the House.

### Occupied Territories: Armed Conflict

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the Government of Israel on rocket attacks on Israel from Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [169600]

**Meg Munn:** The Government have discussed the continued firing of rockets by Palestinian militants from Gaza into Israel with the Israeli Government on numerous occasions, and most recently during the visit of my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 17-19 November.

Over 1,000 Qassam rockets and mortar shells have been fired at Israeli targets since Hamas seized control of Gaza on 14 June 2007, wounding a number of Israelis. It has also caused damage to infrastructure. We continue to call for an immediate halt to these attacks, which target civilians and only escalate an already tense situation. While acknowledging Israel's right to defend itself, we call on Israel to show restraint in the face of these attacks and make clear that any response must be in accordance with international law.

### Pakistan: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to discuss the situation in Pakistan with his ASEAN counterparts; and if he will make a statement. [164100]

**David Miliband:** We continue to engage in on-going dialogue with our Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) partners, most recently with the attendance of my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at the EU-ASEAN summit on 22 November.

I have discussed the situation with EU colleagues and other international partners, including most recently Commonwealth partners on 22 November. We continue to urge the Pakistani Government to implement the necessary conditions to guarantee free and fair elections on schedule in January 2008, release all political prisoners and lift all remaining media restrictions.

### Russia: Elections

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Russia with reference to *(a)* the recent changes to the electoral system and *(b)* the number of election monitors from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe. [170448]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* Russia introduced substantial changes to the electoral system, including increases to both the minimum vote threshold from 5 to 7 per cent. and the minimum size of parties, claiming that changes are necessary to increase parties' authority and develop stronger multi-party governance. But we are concerned that such changes may in fact hinder such developments.

At the recent EU-Russia Human Rights Consultations the EU expressed concerns regarding the amendment to the election law regarding the registration of candidates and parties and domestic observation of elections.

There were no election monitors from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) specialist election monitoring agency, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, present during the parliamentary elections. Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly did

observe the election, but no British parliamentarians were among them. 51 members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, including three British parliamentarians, also observed the election.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent *(a)* discussions he has had with and *(b)* representations he has made to the Russian Government on (i) independent monitoring of the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Russia and (ii) the treatment of Opposition parties in Russia. [170449]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The Government have made no direct approaches to the Russian Government on either issue, instead supporting fully the EU presidency statements on independent monitoring of parliamentary elections and the treatment of Opposition parties, which urged Russia to allow its citizens freedom of expression and demanding that the elections be free and fair. I discussed this with partners in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe at the Ministerial Council in Madrid on 29 November and separately with the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Ambassador Strohal. We fully support ODIHR's decision to withdraw from election monitoring in the face of significant obstruction from the Russian Government.

### Russia: Nuclear Forces Treaty

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is his policy to seek the widening of the intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty to include countries other than the US and Russia; and if he will make a statement. [168395]

**David Miliband:** The Government welcome the US and Russian statements on their confirmed commitment to the intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty. We also note with interest the proposal that the regime be widened, and look forward to more detailed proposals from Russia.

### Serbia: Sanctions

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation of European Union sanctions on *(a)* Serbia and *(b)* Montenegro, with particular reference to the UK's compliance; what the total amount of assets frozen is by (i) EU member states and (ii) the United Kingdom in line with these sanctions; and if he will make a statement. [166052]

**David Miliband:** The UK is firmly committed to the full implementation of all EU sanctions, along with our EU partners.

There are no EU financial sanctions imposed on Serbia or Montenegro. EU Common Positions 2000/696/Common Foreign and Security Policy and 2004/6947 Common Foreign and Security Policy and imposed an asset freeze on former President Milosevic and natural persons associated with him and individuals indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. To date no funds have been identified in the UK.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### East of England Brussels Office: Expenditure

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the expenditure of the East of England Brussels Office was in the last year for which figures are available. [171632]

**Mr. Timms:** The expenditure of the East of England Brussels office, in the last year for which figures are readily available, was £321,740. This relates to the financial year 2003-04.

### EU Trade: Huddersfield

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many jobs in Huddersfield he estimates are dependent on *(a)* exports and *(b)* investment from other EU member states. [162542]

**Mr. Timms:** No such estimates have been made.

In the year ended March 2007, HM Revenue and Customs recorded exports from Yorkshire and The Humber to the EU totalling £7.2 billion out of a total export figure of £12.3 billion for the region. Exports to the EU, therefore, accounted for 59 per cent. of the total. This excludes exports of services and lower value exports, which are not recorded by HM Revenue and Customs.

The number of companies in the region exporting to the EU in the year 2006 has been recorded by HM Revenue and Customs as 1,717. Since the Intrastat survey covers only the largest traders, the total actually exporting is likely to be much higher. The number of companies in the region exporting anywhere in the same period was recorded as 5,589, though as it included the 1,717 exporting to the EU it, too, is likely to be an underestimate of the true position.

On foreign direct investment, there are 595 EU-owned companies in Yorkshire and The Humber, of which 62 are based in Huddersfield. Over 1,700 new or safeguarded jobs were generated by new companies investing in Yorkshire and The Humber during 2006-07. Of this figure, investment by companies based in other EU states contributed 202 jobs.

### Flexible Working

**Ms Hewitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps his Department is taking to encourage fathers of young children to take advantage of the right to request flexible working; [169921]

(2) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have exercised their right to request flexible working on the grounds of being a carer; [169923]

(3) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have taken advantage of the right to request flexible working on the basis of having a young child. [169924]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government encourage all types of flexible working for both fathers and mothers by providing detailed guidance, promoting the benefits and encouraging the sharing of best practice. Employees and employers can also access advice from the ACAS website and telephone helpline.

The right to request flexible working was extended to carers of adults in April this year. The Department's estimate was that the right would be additionally available to about 2.65 million employees with caring responsibilities but, given the very recent introduction of the right, no research has yet been carried out into the take-up. The Department does, however, have in place a strategy for monitoring the law and the impact of the extension of it to carers. In 2008, for example, an employee omnibus survey is planned which will identify adults with caring responsibilities and look at what impact the law has had on them.

The Third Work Life Balance survey of employees (report available at: http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file38388.pdf) provides the most up-to-date data on employee take-up of flexible working. It shows that, over the two-year period of the survey, 38 per cent. of mothers and 11 per cent. of fathers of children below the age of six had made a request to change how they regularly worked.

### Parental Leave

**Ms Hewitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to encourage fathers of young children to exercise their right to parental leave. [169920]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government encourage awareness of all leave entitlements—including parental leave—by providing detailed guidance to employees and employers through a variety of channels, including DBERR, Direct.gov.uk and BusinessLink.gov.uk websites, as well as via the ACAS helpline. The Department's guidance on rights to paternity leave and pay also includes a summary of other entitlements for which fathers may be eligible, including parental leave.

**Ms Hewitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many men have exercised their right to take paid paternity leave in the last three years; and what proportion of eligible men this figure represented in each year. [169922]

**Mr. McFadden:** The most recent estimates of take-up of paternity leave are based on the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents, conducted in 2005. The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby in December 2003 and their partners.

93 per cent. of fathers surveyed took some time off around the time of the birth. Of these, 79 per cent. took at least some statutory paternity leave. The Government estimate that around 400,000 fathers are eligible for the entitlement.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons he has instructed Post Office Ltd. not to make announcements on proposed post office closures during the period 2 April to 1 May 2008 in areas which have no local elections on 1 May 2008. [169475]

**Mr. McFadden** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* Due to the application of normal purdah procedures which apply during election periods, no public consultations will take place and no network change announcements will be made between 7 April and 2 May next year.

The spread of local authority elections to be held on 1 May 2008 in England and Wales means that all area plans for England and Wales cover at least one local authority holding elections on 1 May 2008. It would not be practical to try to subdivide area plans between local authorities with and without local elections due next May and work to separate timetables. Where no local elections are scheduled for next May, as in Scotland and Northern Ireland, the timing of local consultations and announcements of final decisions will not be affected.

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the findings of the consultation on proposed post office closures in west Suffolk will be published. [171618]

**Mr. McFadden:** I understand that Post Office Ltd. expects to announce final decisions on its area plan proposals for post office closures and new outreach services in Norfolk and west Suffolk in late June 2008.

### Post Offices: Opening Hours

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has made to Post Office Limited in respect of *(a)* sub and *(b)* Crown Post Office branches' opening hours during the period 27 December to 31 December 2007. [169788]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

### Royal Mail: EU Law

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of European Court of Justice case C-357/07, 2007/C 247/15, with particular reference to the implications for the future of the Royal Mail's scope of operations. [170649]

**Mr. McFadden:** VAT is a matter for HM Treasury though I can confirm that the Government believe that the current VAT treatment of postal services is fully consistent with European VAT law.

Royal Mail no longer has a statutory monopoly in the UK postal services sector. The UK's mail market has been fully opened up to competition since 1 January 2006.

**Small Businesses: Carbon Emissions**

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the London low emission zone on small and medium-sized businesses; and what discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on that effect. [168685]

**Mr. Timms:** The powers to implement a Low Emission Zone in London rest with the Mayor and the London boroughs, rather than central Government. An economic and business impact assessment has been published by Transport for London. My Department has not prepared its own impact assessment nor have I met the Mayor to discuss this issue.

**Trade Unions: Regional Development Agencies**

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what procedures his Department uses to select trade union representatives appointed to regional development agencies. [171391]

**Mr. Timms:** All RDA board members are appointed by the Secretary of State following a recruitment process which meets the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointment's (OCPA) code. Initially, a detailed specification for each role is drawn up and agreed with the Minister of State for Competitiveness and the OCPA-appointed independent assessor, following a wide consultation process both nationally and regionally with stakeholders, including TUC.

Applications are sifted against the essential criteria set out in the specification and those satisfying the criteria are considered by a panel consisting of the Government Office Regional Director, the RDA Chair and an OCPA independent assessor for interview. Once interviewed, details of candidates who are found suitable for appointment are forwarded to regional Ministers for advice and then forwarded to the Minister of State for Competitiveness to decide whom to appoint.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

**Care Homes: Children**

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how often *(a)* local authority children's homes and *(b)* privately run children's homes are required to be inspected. [170109]

**Kevin Brennan:** Local authority children's homes and privately run children's homes are currently required to be inspected no less than twice in every 12-month period, in line with the provisions of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Children's Homes etc.) Regulations 2007.

**Children: Databases**

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps are being taken to ensure the security of the Contact Point database. [169444]

**Kevin Brennan:** As soon as we were made aware of the loss of data from HMRC, we made contact with the Serious Organised Crime Agency and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre to identify any potential children's welfare issues. As child safety and welfare issues are an absolute priority for us, we are maintaining close contact with the agencies involved to ensure that we all remain vigilant to any child welfare issues that may arise.

On Tuesday 20 November my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State asked the Department's Permanent Secretary to conduct an immediate assessment of how personal data is stored and protected in the Department. The Permanent Secretary reported back within 24 hours to confirm the Department is confident that we have very robust procedures in place. In light of the security breach at the HMRC, we are continuing to check our procedures to ensure standards are as high as they can be. On Wednesday 21 November, the Prime Minister confirmed this approach when he asked all Departments to check their procedures for the storage and use of data. Given the obvious importance of ensuring that ContactPoint has extremely robust security measures in place, on Tuesday 20 November, the Secretary of State also asked for an independent assessment of ContactPoint's security procedures. This will be conducted by Deloitte.

Security is, and always has been, of paramount importance to the ContactPoint project and we are mindful that the Data Protection Act 1998 requires that the level of technical and organisational security must be appropriate.

In line with best practice, ContactPoint will be routinely backed up. This will be done only by specifically identified system operators within Capgemini, with whom we have contracted for the build and initial host of ContactPoint. Two Capgemini staff will have to be present when back-ups take place. This dual control is considered best practice. The backup tapes will be encrypted, protected with a strong (complex) password and stored in a fire-proof safe in a secure room. The limited number of Capgemini staff who do have access to this data must have enhanced CRB clearance.

There is no facility that would allow users to copy personal identifiable information to a file, other than when files need to be backed up as indicated in the last paragraph. The vast majority of users will only be able to view child data on the screen—they will not be able to extract files in a personally identifiable form. A very limited number of people will be able to extract identifiable data, one record at a time, from ContactPoint in order to meet legal requirements as set out in The Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007, including responding to subject access requests. There is a clear right under the Data Protection Act 1998 for children and young people (or their parents or carers when acting

appropriately on their behalf) to have access to their information on ContactPoint and for it to be corrected if it is found to be inaccurate.

A very limited number of people in local authorities and the national ContactPoint team will be able to run reports to, for example, produce aggregated data or support data quality checks. These reports will be in an anonymised form and will not contain personally identifiable data. The only exception to this is a report produced to support local authorities in their duty to identify children who are missing education. The information provided in this report is restricted by regulations and can only contain child name, address, date of birth, unique identifying number, parent/carer contact details and the details of start and end dates for educational institutions attended by the child or young person.

Access to ContactPoint will be strictly limited to those who need it to do their job and who will be subject to stringent security controls. Before being granted access, all users will have completed mandatory face-to-face training, have security clearance (including enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance) and have a user name, a password, a PIN and a security token to access ContactPoint. Mandatory face-to-face training will include the safe and secure use of ContactPoint and the importance of compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and Human Rights Act 1998.

To gain access to a child's record, all users will have to state clear reasons why they are accessing ContactPoint, and all use of the system will be monitored and audited. Every access to a child's record will be detailed in the ContactPoint audit trail. This will be regularly monitored by local authorities, using on-line user activity reports, to ensure that any misuse is detected.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168595]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information is as follows.

*(a)* No computers have been stolen from DCSF in the year 2007.

*(b)* Four departmental laptops have been stolen from home premises in the year 2007, none from DCSF premises.

The value of the items stolen amounts to £3,560.00 (the value for each of these is £890 (cost price for last purchase in January 2007).

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws. [168082]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many employees of each grade in his Department *(a)* have access to confidential or sensitive data and *(b)* are authorised to download such data to disk; how many of his Department's employees have undergone data protection training in the last 12 months; what the average length of time is that each employee of his Department has spent on data protection training; how many investigations of employees of his Department for improperly accessing confidential information have taken place in the last 12 months; how many such investigations resulted in cases of disciplinary action; and what the circumstances of each of those cases were. [168270]

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many requests his Department received from the National Audit Office for access to databases containing personal information on members of the general public in each year since 1997; [169276]

(2) what mechanisms his Department has in place to ensure that databases containing personal information on members of the general public are not accessed *(a)* by unauthorised staff and *(b)* by authorised staff for unauthorised purposes; [169277]

(3) how many electronic databases held by his Department contain *(a)* names, *(b)* addresses, *(c)* bank details and *(d)* other personal information on members of the general public. [169278]

(4) how many times databases held by his Department and containing personal information on members of the general public were accessed in each month of the last five years. [169275]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179, The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Foreign Workers

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are employed by his Department. [168113]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information about EU and non EU foreign nationals could be obtained only in the form requested at disproportionate cost. All potential new appointments to the Department for Children, Schools and Families are subject to nationality, passport, proof of identity and reference checks before contracts of employment are issued.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes were made to his Department's upper pay spine as part of the Spending Review 2004 efficiency programme. [167760]

**Kevin Brennan:** The pay of senior civil servants is centrally controlled by Cabinet Office. For departmental staff, we operate a pay system with a pay minima and maxima for each grade and progression to the maxima based on performance. The 2004 pay band maxima were agreed as part of a multi year pay deal covering 2003 to 2005 with the payband maxima increasing by 2 per cent. in each year.

### Free School Meals

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils were entitled to free school meals in each school in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [168760]

**Jim Knight:** I refer the hon. Member to my reply given on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 632W.

### GCSE

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is his policy to retain *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level qualifications. [163532]

**Jim Knight:** GGSEs and A-levels are long-established and valued qualifications. The Government believe that their future should be decided by the demands of young people, schools and colleges. The review which we have announced for 2013 will consider the evidence and experience following the introduction of Diplomas and the implementation of changes to A-level and GCSE, with a view to reaching conclusions about how in practice the overall offer meets the needs of young people in progressing to further study and employment.

### Gifted and Talented Programme

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students in each London borough were on the gifted and talented programme in the latest period for which figures are available. [169240]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows the proportion of students identified as gifted and talented by maintained primary and secondary schools for each London borough as at January 2007.

| *London borough* | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| City of London | 0.0 |
| Camden | 8.7 |
| Greenwich | 8.3 |
| Hackney | 10.8 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 10.6 |
| Islington | 8.5 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 14.1 |
| Lambeth | 9.1 |
| Lewisham | 5.2 |
| Southwark | 6.9 |
| Tower Hamlets | 8.6 |
| Wandsworth | 11.7 |
| Westminster | 10.6 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 4.7 |
| Barnet | 5.6 |
| Bexley | 12.3 |
| Brent | 7.8 |
| Bromley | 11.2 |
| Croydon | 4.9 |
| Ealing | 8.3 |
| Enfield | 11.1 |
| Haringey | 8.2 |
| Harrow | 7.6 |
| Havering | 14.3 |
| Hillingdon | 8.8 |
| Hounslow | 10.9 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 9.5 |
| Merton | 6.4 |
| Newham | 8.3 |
| Redbridge | 10.4 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 9.4 |
| Sutton | 9.3 |
| Waltham Forest | 10.9 |

### Languages: GCSE

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in reviewing the standards of GCSE modern language examinations and their level of difficulty in comparison with other GCSE examinations; and if he will make a statement. [163295]

**Jim Knight:** Lord Dearing's 'Languages Review, published in March 2007, identified the need to resolve the widely held perception that languages GCSEs are harder than other subjects. This is a matter for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) which, as qualifications regulator, has responsibility for ensuring consistent standards in GCSE. Following the Languages Review, the Secretary of State asked QCA to investigate this matter and report back to him. We expect to receive QCA's report in the near future.

### Pupil Exclusions

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils who were given a permanent exclusion were sent to another mainstream school in each year since 1997; [169134]

(2) how many pupils who were given a permanent exclusion were sent to a Pupil Referral Unit in each year since 1997. [169129]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information on the number of permanently excluded pupils who are sent to a maintained school can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of permanently excluded pupils who are sent to a Pupil Referral Unit is not available.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children readmitted to school by an independent appeals panel after expulsion were expelled again within *(a)* one year, *(b)* two years and *(c)* five years in each relevant period since 1997; [169151]

(2) how many children who won their independent appeals panel hearing against exclusion were readmitted to the school from which they had been excluded in the latest period for which figures are available; [169152]

(3) how many children who won their independent appeals panel hearing against exclusion and were readmitted to the same school were subsequently permanently excluded in the latest period for which figures are available; [169153]

(4) how many children who won their independent appeals panel hearing against exclusion and were readmitted to the same school were subsequently given a fixed period exclusion in the latest period for which figures are available; [169154]

(5) how many children readmitted to school after permanent exclusion were permanently excluded again within *(a)* one year, *(b)* two years and *(c)* five years in each year since 1997. [169182]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information on pupils who have successfully appealed their exclusion and then go on to be excluded (either permanently or for a fixed period) is not available centrally.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils received more than one fixed term exclusion in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by reason of exclusion. [169184]

**Kevin Brennan:** The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Pupils: Transport

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what transport support provision is available for journeys from home to school or college for students in further education in each London borough; and if he will make a statement. [169234]

**Jim Knight:** From 1 September 2006 Transport for London introduced free travel concession on buses and trams for under 18s who are attending a full-time education course. The concession expires at the end of the academic year in which the student turns 18.

### Religion: Curriculum

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to improve the way that faith and culture are addressed through the national curriculum as recommended in the Preventing Extremism Together report. [169610]

**Jim Knight:** As recommended by Sir Keith Ajegbo a new strand of citizenship education entitled 'Identity and Diversity: Living Together in the UK' has been made part of the national curriculum which will be rolled out in secondary schools from September 2008 onwards. Identity and diversity also is a cross-cutting theme across the whole revised curriculum and provides schools with the opportunity to teach pupils about the connections between the diverse cultures and communities in the UK.

In addition, the national framework for religious education has been incorporated into the revised secondary curriculum. The framework places inclusion, tolerance, diversity and interfaith dialogue at the heart of children's learning. A regional training programme to support schools in delivering the new curriculum is being rolled out from January 2008.

### School Leaving

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the review commissioned by his Department of existing evidence on the merits of raising the education participation age to 18 years. [169155]

**Jim Knight:** The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) were commissioned, by the Department, in May 2007 to undertake an independent external review of existing national and international evidence to explore the likely impact, benefits and challenges associated with raising the education and training participation age to 18. The report from this review of evidence is being published on 29 November 2007.

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes will be made to the eligibility criteria for education maintenance allowances when the raising of the participation age is implemented. [169159]

**Jim Knight:** We made clear in the document "Raising Expectations; staying in education and training post-16—from policy to legislation", that financial constraints should not be a barrier to participation and that we will look at the structure of financial support to make sure it continues to be as effective as possible. This will

include looking at a variety of options to ensure that financial support for learning is restructured in the most effective way to ensure young people are enabled to participate. In doing this we will build on the foundation of the educational maintenance allowance, and the views we gathered in the public consultation on 'supporting young people to achieve'.

### Schools: Admissions

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children living in each local education authority area attended a maintained school in a different local authority area in the latest period for which figures are available. [167719]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information was published on 27 September 2007 in the Statistical First Release "Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final)".

The SFR is available at:

www dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

Copies of the relevant tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

### Teachers

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish research his Department has completed into teachers' workload in the last five years. [169157]

**Jim Knight:** All external research commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families is published as a matter of course. The Department has not completed any research that specifically looks at teacher workload in the last five years as the Office of Manpower Economics (OME) conduct and publish a survey on teacher workload to inform the work of the School Teachers' Review Body. Over last five years OME have conducted their survey in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, the results from the 2004 survey onwards can be found at:

http://www.ome.uk.com/review.cfm?body=7

### Departmental Staff

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff of the former Department for Education and Skills are employed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. [169164]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department came into being with the Machinery of Government changes of 28 June 2007 with 2,890 staff from the former Department for Education and Skills now employed at the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

### Teenage Pregnancy: Housing

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pregnant teenagers under the age of 18 were being housed in *(a)* bed and breakfast accommodation and *(b)* hostels for single homeless adults in each local authority area, in the latest period for which figures are available. [167127]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Bristol International Airport

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to carry out an area action plan on Bristol International Airport. [169447]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** It is for North Somerset council to carry out an area action plan on Bristol International Airport as part of their local development framework.

North Somerset council intend to timetable work on such a plan to coincide with the review of Bristol International Airport's own airport masterplan, which is likely to be reviewed in 2011.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what mechanisms her Department has in place to ensure that databases containing personal information on members of the general public are not accessed *(a)* by unauthorised staff and *(b)* by authorised staff for unauthorised purposes; [168962]

(2) how many requests her Department received from the National Audit Office for access to databases containing personal information on members of the general public in each year since 1997; [168964]

(3) how many times her Department's databases containing personal information on members of the general public were accessed in each month of the last five years; [168965]

(4) how many staff of each grade in her Department have access to electronic databases which contain personal information on members of the general public; [168966]

(5) how many security breaches regarding access to personal data occurred within her Department in each year since 1997; [168967]

(6) when each electronic database held by her Department containing personal information on members of the general public was first created; [168968]

(7) how many electronic databases containing *(a)* names, *(b)* addresses, *(c)* bank details and *(d)* other personal information of members of the general public are held by her Department; [168969]

(8) how many times electronic data containing personal information on members of the public have been transferred *(a)* physically and *(b)* electronically between her Department and another body in each year since 1997. [169777]

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 requiring investigation there have been in the last five years in her Department; what the nature such breaches were; and what the results of the investigations were in each case. [169254]

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions the Information Commissioner was contacted by her Department to report breaches of data protection security in each of the last five years. [169333]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review how her Department transports data; and whether her Department uses TNT to transport data. [169380]

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in her Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [169895]

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many items of post sent by her Department and its predecessors were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997; [171294]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171424]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Labour Turnover

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169031]

**Mr. Dhanda:** In the 12 months to 31 March 2007, the percentage staff turnover in Communities and Local Government was 22 per cent. In the 24 months to 31 March 2007, staff turnover was 36 per cent.

Turnover has been calculated on a headcount basis as the number of leavers over the period expressed as a proportion of the staff in post at the start of the period. The figures include Communities staff working in the Government Office network. Information for Executive agencies is not held centrally.

### Departmental Publications

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the in-house staff magazine of her Department from the last 12 months. [171555]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Department for Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006. Copies of every issue of the Department's staff magazine have been placed in the Library of the House.

### Empty Property

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will announce her conclusions and intentions in response to the consultation on modernising empty property relief. [168903]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Following consideration of responses to the consultation document "Modernising Empty Property Relief", we intend to announce our decisions on the future exemptions from reformed empty property rates and on proposed new anti-avoidance regulations later in the year.

### Energy: Conservation

**Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* enforcement notices have been served and *(b)* prosecutions have been brought as a result of non-compliance with the energy efficiency requirements in Part L of the Building Regulations in each year since 2002. [169934]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Enforcement of compliance with the Building Regulations is undertaken by local authorities. There is no central register of enforcement notices served or prosecutions brought. In the main, local authorities aim to resolve issues that arise through inspection of and advice to those undertaking work. Enforcement notices and prosecution are only used as a last resort.

### EU Grants and Loans

**Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will set out her response to the concerns of the European Commission which have led to the suspension of European Regional Development Fund funding in *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* London and *(c)* the north West; and what steps she is taking to tackle the concerns; [163956]

(2) how much European Regional Development Fund funding is suspended by the European Union in relation to *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* the north west and *(c)* London; [163957]

(3) when she expects the suspension of European Regional Development Fund funding in *(a)* the west midlands, *(b)* the north west and *(c)* London to be lifted. [163958]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The suspension of ERDF payments, stems from specific concerns identified by the Commission in the level of on-site project monitoring. The Government have carried out intensive work to increase the level of checks and strengthen reporting. Each affected region is being assessed individually by the Commission and as a result the suspensions have now been lifted in the west midlands, northeast, Yorkshire and The Humber, northwest objective 1, and Peterborough. A total of £243 million in ERDF payments was held back for those regions by the Commission, and payments have now been fully resumed. We are waiting to hear about the lifting of the suspensions of payments for London. In the case of the northwest objective 2 programme we are carrying out urgent further work to re-assure the Commission before a final decision is taken.

The European Commission is currently holding back around £7 million in relation to the London objective 2 and Stockwell urban programmes and around £19 million in relation to the north-west objective 2 and Burnley urban programmes.

### Fire Services: Consultants

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on consultants' fees for the Firelink project to date, broken down by consultancy. [169606]

**Mr. Dhanda:** For the period August 2002 to October 2007 the individual costs of consultancies used by the Firelink project are:

| *Consultancy* | *Costs (£000)* |
|---|---|
| Mott MacDonald Ltd. | 19,500 |
| BOS consulting Ltd. | 6 |
| Bourton Group Ltd. | 27 |
| Denton Wilde Sapte | 882 |
| Ernst and Young LLP | 1,044 |
| Gardiner and Theobald | 20 |
| Hedra plc | 75 |
| Hudson Global Resources | 632 |
| INOVEM Ltd. | 8 |
| Keymedia Design Ltd. | 7 |
| Malcolm Hutchinson Associates Ltd. | 6 |
| Mouchel Parkman Services Ltd. | 274 |
| Office of Government Commerce | 147 |
| PA Consulting | 19 |
| PKF | 2 |
| QuinetiQ | 15 |
| SERCO | 137 |
| Willis Ltd. | 18 |

### Fire Services: Finance

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost of the FiReControl project team has been to date including *(a)* staffing costs, *(b)* secondment costs, *(c)* payments made by fire authorities under the new burdens principle and *(d)* travel costs. [169491]

**Mr. Dhanda:** To the end of October 2007 the cost (net of receipts) for the National FiReControl Team was £42,011,903. This figure includes *(a)* £5,767,265 staffing (including civil servants, interim and agency staff), *(b)* secondments at £4,394,071 and *(c)* travel costs at £813,603.

In addition, we have made payments to local authorities under the new burdens principles of £19,054,757.

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the *(a)* staffing costs, *(b)* secondment costs, *(c)* payments made to fire consultancies under the new burdens principle, *(d)* travel costs and *(e)* other costs of the FireLink project team. [169607]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following table sets out the Firelink project costs under the requested headings for the period August 2002 to October 2007. Project management costs are met in part by the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| *(a)* Staffing costs | 3.44 |
| *(b)* Secondment costs | 2.6 |
| *(c)* Payments made to fire consultancies under the new burdens principles, presuming this is meant to indicate payments to Fire and Rescue Authorities | 0 |
| *(d)* Travel costs | 0.71 |
| *(e)* Other costs of the Fire Link National Project Team | 6.26 |

### Haven Gateway Partnership

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had with (i) Haven Gateway Partnership and (ii) lobbyists engaged by Haven Gateway Partnership in the last 12 months. [166911]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** My right hon. Friend has not had any meetings with the Haven Gateway Partnership or their lobbyists in the last 12 months. Communities and Local Government officials have met with members of the Haven Gateway Partnership and some of their stakeholders in January 2007 and with representatives from Colchester borough council in July 2007. In addition, officials from the Government Office for the east of England meet with the Haven Gateway Partnership on a regular basis in support of their growth ambitions, as they do with all New Growth Point areas in their region. There have been no meetings between officials and lobbyists.

### Housing: Construction

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of new builds in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency, *(b)* each London borough and *(c)* England were built on (i) previously developed land and (ii) back gardens in the last five years. [169828]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following table shows statistics on the percentage of dwellings built on previously-developed ("brownfield") land and on previously-residential land.

There is no direct indicator which can be used to determine how many dwellings have been built on back gardens. The Land Use Change Statistics dataset contains information on changes in land use in England and is used to answer questions on this topic. In this dataset, land use is divided into 24 categories. However, gardens, patios, garages and other cartilage as well as dwellings themselves are all classified as 'Residential'. It is therefore not directly possible to determine whether or not dwellings have been built on a garden. This has not changed since the Land Use Change Statistics were introduced in 1989.

As a proxy, we use data on previously-residential land instead of back gardens, but this includes conversions, sites where dwellings are demolished and replaced as well as building on back gardens and other types of development.

Over the period 2002 to 2006 (the most recent years for which data are available) 94 per cent. of dwellings in the Uxbridge constituency were built on previously-developed land. This compares to 95 per cent. across the whole of London and 70 per cent. across England. Over the same period 33 per cent. of dwellings in the Uxbridge constituency were built on previously-residential land. This compares to 20 per cent. across the whole of London and 18 per cent. across England.

*Proportion of dwellings built on previously-developed and previously residential land 2002-06*

| | *Proportion of dwellings built on previously-developed land* | *Percentage* *Proportion of dwellings built on previously-residential land* |
|---|---|---|
| Uxbridge constituency | 94 | 33 |
| London boroughs | 95 | 20 |
| *Inner London* | | |
| City of London | 100 | 63 |
| Camden | 95 | 22 |
| Hackney | 99 | 16 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 100 | 21 |
| Haringey | 98 | 17 |
| Islington | 100 | 25 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 99 | 13 |
| Lambeth | 94 | 17 |
| Lewisham | 98 | 21 |
| Newham | 86 | 11 |
| Southwark | 93 | 7 |
| Tower Hamlets | 99 | 10 |
| Wandsworth | 100 | 19 |
| Westminster | 100 | 17 |
| *Outer London* | | |
| Barking and Dagenham | 67 | 17 |
| Barnet | 93 | 44 |
| Bexley | 83 | 17 |
| Brent | 87 | 19 |
| Bromley | 90 | 34 |
| Croydon | 99 | 47 |
| Ealing | 90 | 18 |
| Enfield | 100 | 21 |
| Greenwich | 98 | 7 |
| Harrow | 89 | 36 |
| Havering | 94 | 18 |
| Hillingdon | 92 | 36 |
| Hounslow | 93 | 8 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 95 | 45 |
| Merton | 90 | 26 |
| Redbridge | 97 | 10 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 98 | 36 |
| Sutton | 100 | 40 |
| Waltham Forest | 95 | 28 |
| England total | 70 | 18 |

*Notes:*
1. There is an inevitable time-lag between land use change occurring and it being recorded, therefore data are constantly being updated.
2. The data in the table are based on records received from Ordnance Survey up to June 2007, consistent with the Land Use Change Statistics publication published on 31 October 2007.

## Housing: Low Incomes

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that provision of new affordable housing matches housing needs analysis in relation to the need for affordable family homes in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* other Northwest housing hotspots. [170272]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* Funding for housing is distributed between the regions on the basis of an analysis of relative need which takes account of local authority need. North-west housing hotspots would be reflected in this analysis. Announcements as to the levels of funding to be made available in the north-west over the next three years for affordable housing will be made shortly.

The funding is being made available to bids from both housing associations, developers and local authorities through the Housing Corporation's bidding round for the National Affordable Housing Programme. Investment in 2008-11 and completions in particular locations will depend on the bids received by the Housing Corporation.

## Housing: Overcrowding

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria her Department uses to determine whether a *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three bedroom property is overcrowded. [171553]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The existing statutory overcrowding standards are set out in Part 1 of the Housing Act 1985—a dwelling is overcrowded when the number of people sleeping in the dwelling contravenes either the room standard or the space standard:

The room standard is breached if the number of people sleeping in a dwelling, and the number of rooms available as sleeping accommodation, are such that two people of opposite sexes who are not living together as husband and wife must sleep in the same room. Children under 10 do not count.

The space standard specifies the maximum number of people who may sleep in a dwelling, and in the available rooms within it, having regard to (i) the number of available rooms of 50 square feet or more and (ii) the floor area in each room. Two calculations are required and the lower number applies. Babies under one year old do not count, and children between one and 10 count as half.

For the purposes of these standards, a room is considered to be "available as sleeping accommodation" if it is "of a type normally used in the locality either as a bedroom or a living room".

### Hutchinson

**Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had with (i) Hutchinson Ports and (ii) lobbyists engaged by Hutchinson Ports in the last 12 months. [166983]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** My right hon. Friend has held no meetings with Hutchinson Ports UK Ltd. or their lobbyists in the last 12 months, nor have officials from Communities and Local Government and Government Office East of England. However, representatives from Hutchinson Ports UK Ltd. have been present at some routine meetings between officials and the Haven Gateway Partnership.

### Independent Infrastructure Planning Commission

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many members the proposed independent Infrastructure Planning Commission will have; and how many of them will be appointed by *(a)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* the Scottish Executive. [169534]

**John Healey:** The White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (CM7120) outlined that the number of Commissioners would depend on the Commission's workload, but that we expect that the Commission might require between 20-30 Commissioners. All of the Commissioners would be appointed by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will ask Welsh Ministers for nominations for 2-3 of these posts, reflecting the role of the Commission in determining nationally significant energy infrastructure projects in Wales. The Infrastructure Planning Commission will have no role in determining projects in Scotland, and so no nominations will be sought from Scottish Ministers.

### Licensing Laws

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations have been made to her Department on the use of temporary events notices; what assessment her Department has made of the use of temporary events notices instead of regular licensing; and how many temporary event notices have been *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted in each London borough in each of the last three years. [163749]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I have been asked to reply.

We have received a number of representations on the use of temporary event notices (TENs). These have included some calls for an increase to the number that can be given in one year, with others calling for a decrease. My right hon. Friend the Member for St. Helens, South (Mr. Woodward) made a ministerial written statement on 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 39WS, which stated that the Government had no plans to change limits. The Government also stated in their Memorandum on Re-licensing, sent to the Select Committee on Communities and Local Government on 10 January 2007, that while there had been some representations about licensed premises using TENs to operate additional hours or activities which have not been included on the full licence, the Government believed that the existing limit was sufficient. In the Report of the Independent Fees Review Panel, chaired by Sir Les Elton, the Panel recommended that the TENs limit be increased from 12 to 15 each year. The Government will respond to the Panel's report in due course.

It is not possible to provide the information in the format requested as TENs did not exist until 24 November 2005, when the Licensing Act 2003 came into force, and there is no data held centrally that shows figures prior to 1 April 2006. The following table shows how many TENs were given during the 12 month period to 31 March 2007 across the licensing authorities in London which cover London borough areas.

| *Licensing authority* | *Valid temporary event notices given to licensing authority* | *Counter notices given following police objection* | *Counter notices given where limits exceeded* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 225 | 0 | 0 |
| Barnet | 463 | 0 | 0 |
| Bexley | 285 | 4 | 0 |
| Brent | 247 | 0 | 0 |
| Bromley | 1,564 | 5 | 1 |
| Camden | — | — | — |
| City of London Corporation | 321 | 0 | 0 |
| Croydon | 398 | 2 | 32 |
| Ealing | 450 | 4 | 0 |
| Enfield | 459 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenwich | 264 | 0 | 0 |
| Hackney | 606 | 4 | 14 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 394 | 0 | 2 |
| Haringey | 330 | 5 | 0 |
| Harrow | 285 | 0 | 4 |
| Havering | 379 | 0 | 0 |
| Hillingdon | 335 | 0 | 0 |
| Hounslow | — | — | — |
| Islington | 560 | 0 | 0 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 331 | 2 | 1 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 223 | 0 | 0 |
| Lambeth | 402 | 0 | 3 |
| Lewisham | 327 | 0 | 0 |
| Merton | 390 | 0 | 0 |
| Newham | 178 | 1 | 0 |
| Redbridge | 264 | 3 | 0 |

| Licensing authority | Valid temporary event notices given to licensing authority | Counter notices given following police objection | Counter notices given where limits exceeded |
|---|---|---|---|
| Richmond upon Thames | 722 | 0 | 0 |
| Southwark | — | — | — |
| Sutton | 354 | 0 | 0 |
| Tower Hamlets | 513 | — | — |
| Waltham Forest | 184 | 0 | 1 |
| Wandsworth | 596 | 0 | — |
| Westminster | 2,023 | 0 | 19 |

*Note:*
Where there are blank cells in the table, information was not provided by the licensing authority. Valid temporary event notices given includes notices which were subsequently withdrawn.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Minister for Housing to reply to the letter of 1 August 2007 from the right hon. Member for West Chelmsford; what the reasons are for the time taken to reply; and if she will make a statement [169789]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I replied to the hon. Gentleman on 28 November 2007. I apologise for the delay in responding.

### Office for Tenants and Social Landlords

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed Office for Tenants and Social Landlords will *(a)* set and *(b)* monitor performance targets for (i) local authorities and (ii) housing associations. [171527]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Housing and Regeneration Bill before Parliament permits the proposed Office for Tenants and Social Landlords (OFTENANT) to set standards covering a range of functions relating to social housing owned by providers registered with it and to collect information from registered providers.

It will be for OFTENANT to determine which standards are set and how they are monitored, subject to its own objectives, which include ensuring protection of tenants and minimising regulatory interference. Professor Martin Cave's review of social housing regulation, published in June 2007, envisaged that registered bodies might develop own codes of conduct which they would monitor themselves, with the regulator collecting basic performance information.

These provisions will apply to all housing associations which are currently registered with the Housing Corporation. They do not apply to local authorities, but the Government have announced their intention to extend the scope of the regulator to local authority landlords and Arms Length Management Organisations within two years of OFTENANT's creation.

### Planning

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 139, on planning, if she will place in the Library copies of all correspondence and documentation relating to the Durham Green Business Park planning application and development, held by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government Office for the North East. [170760]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* My Department and the Government Office North East hold no such correspondence or documentation.

The Durham Green Business Park planning proposal was nominated by the local authority (Durham city council) for inclusion in the pilot for Planning Delivery Agreements (PDAs, which have since been renamed to Planning Performance Agreements) and all nominations were accepted. This pilot was run jointly by the Planning Advisory Service (part of the Improvement and Development Agency), and the Advisory Team on Large Applications (part of English Partnerships). Neither of these bodies have any role in determining the outcome of planning applications. PDAs are not about determining applications but about ensuring efficient working processes on a local level when dealing with large or complex projects. Ministers were not involved in the selection of proposals for the pilot. All documentation relating to the Durham Green Business Park held by the Planning Advisory Service has been placed in the Library today.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from *(a)* representatives of Durham Green Developments Ltd. and *(b)* Mr. David Abrahams in relation to planning in the last 36 months. [170730]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* Officials in my Department have checked our records and have found no such representations.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the development of the Durham Green Business Park, near south Durham, entails development on green belt land according to the records held by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Government Office for the North East. [170731]

**Hazel Blears** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The City of Durham Local Plan shows that the Durham Green Business Park is outside the green belt.

### Planning Permission: Public Participation

**Ms Hewitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when her Department last reviewed the guidelines or regulations on how local councils communicate with residents about planning applications affecting their neighbourhood; [169926]

(2) if she will encourage local authorities to make full use of the internet to enable interested local residents to be informed by e-mail of any planning application made within their neighbourhood; [169927]

(3) if she will review the guidance given to local authorities on informing local residents of planning applications in their neighbourhood; [169928]

(4) what statutory requirements her Department imposes upon local authorities in relation to informing local residents of planning applications that affect their neighbourhood; [169929]

(5) what advice her Department provides to local authorities on how to inform local residents of a planning application in their neighbourhood. [169930]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Article 8 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (the GDPO) 1995 sets out the duties of local planning authorities to publicise the planning applications they receive in order to invite comments on development proposals from third parties. Guidance on those duties is provided by Department of the Environment Circular 15/92, "Publicity for Planning Applications".

The GDPO requires the local planning authority to publicise planning applications, either by a site notice or by notification to neighbours. In addition, local advertisement in a newspaper is required for applications for planning permission for 'major' applications which is defined as minerals applications, waste development, the provision of dwellings (where more than 10 provided or site is 0.5 ha or over), a building with floor space of 1,000 $m^2$ or over, development on a site of 1 ha or over, and also listed building consent and conservation area consent. Local planning authorities may also use their websites to publicise planning applications.

In June 2004, the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published the report "Review of the Publicity Requirements for Planning Applications" evaluating the effectiveness of publicity requirements.

In the 2007 Planning White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future", the Government proposed a review and simplification of the GDPO.

We are encouraging local planning authorities to use the internet to notify residents of planning applications by constructing an 'e-Consultation Hub' to be run by the Planning Portal. It is envisaged that citizens will be able to register their interest and be notified of any applications in their area, and then respond (if they wish to) online direct to the local planning authority.

We have also given a commitment in the Planning White Paper that the hub will be constructed and come into operation by April 2008. However, in the first instance, the service will link statutory consultees and local planning authorities, with citizen services being implemented soon after.

### Regional Planning and Development: Government Office for the South East

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government Office for the South East has to *(a)* review and *(b)* designate Areas of Great Landscape Value in local development frameworks; and what guidance her Department has provided on this. [171622]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government Office for the South-East has no plans to review or designate Areas of Great Landscape Value in local development frameworks. These are local rather than national designations which have been created by local planning authorities. Government guidance on local landscape designations is provided in Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7): Sustainable Development in Rural Areas. This advises that local landscape designations should be maintained only or, exceptionally, extended where it can be clearly shown that criteria-based planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection. PPS7 also states that, when reviewing their local area-wide development plans and local development documents, planning authorities should rigorously consider the justification for retaining existing local landscape designations. They should ensure that such designations are based on a formal and robust assessment of the qualities of the landscape concerned.

### Regional Planning and Development: Green belt

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy that no regional spatial strategy approved by her will entail *(a)* developments on the green belt and *(b)* reviews of the green belt with a view to development. [171495]

**Mr. Dhanda:** National policy on green belt is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: Green Belts. One of the principles of the policy is that, where necessary, green belt boundaries are strategically reviewed. Boundaries can be changed only in exceptional circumstances and after public consultation and examination through the plan process. The Regional Spatial Strategy is the appropriate setting for strategic green belt reviews to be considered, with detailed boundaries being a matter for local authorities.

The Government have set a target that overall there should be

> "no net change, or an increase, in the area of designated Green Belt land in each region."

Since 1997, excluding the re-designation of the New Forest from green belt to National Park, the green belt in England has grown by 25,900 hectares.

### Religious Buildings: Islam

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of mosques in the UK which are funded by groups or organisations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [169698]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government do not hold information on the number of mosques in the UK funded by groups or organisations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Government are working with a range of partners to further develop their understanding of Muslim communities in the UK and their infrastructure.

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of mosques in the UK which promote Wahhabism. [169700]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government do not hold information on the number of mosques in the UK or their denominations. The Government are working with a range of partners to further develop their understanding of Muslim communities in the UK and their infrastructure.

### Religious Persons: Saudi Arabia

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of imams in the UK who were *(a)* born in Saudi Arabia and *(b)* educated or trained in Saudi Arabia. [169699]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government do not hold information on the number of imams in the UK who were born in Saudi Arabia or educated/trained in Saudi Arabia. The Government are working with a range of partners to further develop their understanding of Muslim communities in the UK and their infrastructure.

### Right to Buy Scheme: Finance

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Right to Buy capital was set aside in each year since the scheme started; and to what extent each local authority has used set-aside capital to repay historical debt. [164960]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Under the 'set-aside' regime, which ran until 1 April 2004, with-debt local authorities were required to set aside a proportion of the capital receipt generated by the disposal of a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) asset, upon disposal of that asset, for repayment of housing debt. Debt-free authorities were free to use their receipts for any capital purpose they saw fit.

The Department recorded the value of capital receipts set-aside and continues to record the value of Right to Buy (RTB) sales. However, these are separate exercises. The manner in which the data are collected means that no differentiation is made between RTB sales and other disposals of housing assets resulting in a capital receipt that goes to make up that set-aside total for a local authority.

The following table shows the value of capital receipts set-aside from 1995-96 to 2003-04 (the last year in which the set-aside regime existed). When set-aside exceeds RTB capital receipts it is because set-aside includes a proportion of receipts from not only RTB but also whole-stock transfers, non-RTB dwelling sales and sales of other HRA assets such as housing land.

| | *Set-aside* | *£ million Right to buy receipts* |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 860 | [1]— |
| 1996-97 | 637 | [1]— |
| 1997-98 | 943 | 890 |
| 1998-99 | 1,085 | 911 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,477 | 1,374 |
| 2000-01 | 1,626 | 1,426 |
| 2001-02 | 1,382 | 1,566 |
| 2002-03 | 1,857 | 2,210 |
| 2003-04 | [1]— | 2,936 |

[1] No data.

Pre 1997-98 data are available only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not collect data on whether local authorities actually used the set-aside generated by disposals to repay housing debt. For the purposes of HRA subsidy it was assumed that the set-aside was used to repay housing debt.

### Sustainable Development: Leicester

**Ms Hewitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the proposals from Leicester city council for a sustainable community at Ashton Green; what support her Department will make available to Leicester city council in respect of this development; and what steps it will take to help Leicester city council secure an element of affordable housing within the development. [170139]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Proposals for housing development at Ashton Green first came before the Secretary of State as an allocation in the 1991 to 2001 Leicester Local Plan, and subsequently in the 1996 to 2016 Replacement Leicester Local Plan. The Secretary of State enabled that proposal to emerge through the statutory planning process, culminating in the adoption of the current City of Leicester Local Plan in January 2006.

Ashton Green formed part of the evidence supporting the 6Cs (formerly three cities) Growth Point Bid submitted to my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning early in 2006. The viability of those proposals, supported by the adopted status of the Ashton Green allocation, was confirmed in October 2006 with the award of Growth Point status to the 6Cs partnership, which includes Leicester city council.

Further details of the Ashton Green sustainable community were submitted to the Department as evidence supporting the 6Cs program of development in October 2007. That document made the case for Growth Point funding for the 6Cs that is currently under consideration by the Department: an announcement on funding to all Growth Points will be made in the near future. Growth Point funding is to be awarded as a block grant, so it will be a matter for local partners, including Leicester city council, to determine how to use any funds to support their growth aspirations at Ashton Green and elsewhere.

I met with the Deputy Leader of Leicester city council on 13 November 2007 to discuss affordable housing issues, including the city council's aspirations for Ashton Green. I invited Leicester city to discuss the potential of forming a local housing company as proposed in the July 2007 Housing White Paper "Homes for the Future; more affordable, more sustainable", with my officials. As the owner of the land at Ashton Green, Leicester city council is well placed to secure a high proportion of affordable housing on this site through such a delivery vehicle.

The Department's agency English Partnerships also met with Leicester city council in November to discuss the potential of Ashton Green to act as a demonstration site for eco-homes, with the benefit of technical support from English Partnerships and their acknowledged expertise in this area.

### Translation Services

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to issue guidance on translation services for local authorities, Departments and their agencies; and if she will make a statement. [169778]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Guidance for local authorities on the translation of publications will be issued shortly.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Community Care Grants

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of community care grant applications were granted *(a)* in total and *(b)* at each benefit delivery centre in 2006-07; [166417]

(2) what the average time was to process a community care grant application *(a)* in total and *(b)* at each benefit delivery centre in 2006-07; [166418]

(3) how many outstanding community care grant applications there were at each benefit delivery centre in each month since March; [166419]

(4) what assessment he has made of levels of financial hardship resulting from the time taken in processing community care grants. [166420]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 4 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what percentage of Community Care Grant applications were granted in total and at each benefit delivery centre in 2006-07; what the average time was to process a Community Care Grant application in total and at each benefit delivery centre in 2006-07; how many outstanding Community Care Grant applications there were at each benefit delivery centre in each month since March and what assessment has been made of levels of financial hardship resulting from the time taken in processing Community Care Grants. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The percentage of Community Care Grant applications processed which were granted in total and at each Social Fund operating unit in 2006-07 is in table 1. This does not include applications which were initially refused but later granted on review. The average time taken to process a Community Care Grant application and at each Social Fund operating unit in 2006-07 is in table 2.

The processing time for an individual application is measured in whole working days from the date of receipt of the application to the date of the decision, inclusive. The minimum processing time recorded for an individual application is one day, even if the application is processed immediately.

The number of outstanding Community Care Grant applications at each benefit delivery centre at the end of each month from March to October 2007 is in table 3.

Copies of the tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

No assessment has been made of levels of financial hardship resulting from the time taken in processing Community Care Grants. However, we have plans in place to improve our performance on Community Care Grant clearance times.

I hope this is helpful.

### Departmental ICT

**Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167218]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Department for Work and Pensions has a requirement for a wide variety of software from a large number of manufacturers due to the complexity of its business operations and supporting IT systems.

For this reason the names of the top 10 manufacturers identified by consideration of cost whose software the Department uses are given:

Microsoft
IBM
Oracle
BEA Software Ltd.
QAS Systems
TIBCO
WRQ Ltd.
Stellant
Codestream
Integralis Ltd.

The Department's software is obtained either by direct procurement via a contracted software reseller or as part of a service via its IT service providers (some at corporate level and some at operational level).

### Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167294]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The figures noted in the following table represent the costs for staff working in Branding and Marketing in the Department and its agencies. Figures used are for the last financial year (2006-07). It is not possible to separate branding and marketing without obtaining disproportionate cost.

| *Agency* | *Cost (£000)* |
|---|---|
| Child Support Agency | 125 |
| DWP Corporate | 1,197 |
| Disability and Carers Service | 32 |
| Health and Safety Executive | 84 |
| Jobcentre Plus | 3,900 |
| The Pension Service | 304 |
| The Rent Service | 155 |
| Total | 5,797 |

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167339]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information requested is not held centrally by the Department and its agencies, and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167944]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department runs a number of promotional campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of rights and responsibilities. The table details spend on advertising campaigns run by the Department in financial year 2006-07 for which figures are available.

Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. But that also has to be done with cost efficiency in mind and there are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising.

*Departmental advertising costs 2006-07*[1]

| | *Amount (£000)* |
|---|---|
| Age Partnership Group | 9 |
| Age Positive | 40 |
| Targeting benefit fraud | 5,418 |
| Reducing customer error | 45 |
| The Pension Service core benefit take up | 881 |
| Winter fuel payments | 343 |
| Child maintenance enforcement | 107 |
| Jobcentre Plus promotion to Black and Minority Ethnic audience | 687 |
| Job Done | 765 |
| Jobseeker's Allowance 50+ Pilot | 83 |
| Lone parent | 171 |
| Total | 8,549 |

1 The table does not include the following as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost:
spend by non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible
details of highly localised publicity activity by the Department's customer-facing
Businesses
recruitment or procurement advertising

The information in the table relates to media buying expenditure only, which forms the bulk of departmental publicity expenditure, but excludes direct mail, public relations, production and other costs. All figures are exclusive of VAT.

### Disability Living Allowance: Forms

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the ease of completing disability living allowance application forms; and if he will *(a)* bring forward proposals to review the format of the forms and *(b)* consult the National Autistic Society on their recommendations for changes to the application process. [167603]

**Mrs. McGuire** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mrs. Vivien Hopkins. She will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Vivien Hopkins, dated 4 December 2007:*

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the ease of completing disability living allowance application forms; and if he will (a) bring forward proposals to review the format of the forms and (b) consult the National Autistic Society on their recommendations for changes to the application process.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Acting Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

We have a long standing commitment to improving our service to our customers, including identifying and implementing improvements to claim forms for Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

By way of background the claim form has to cater for the fact that disabling conditions affect different people in different ways, varying enormously from individual to individual, and may also change over time in a way that is not always easy to predict.

For these reasons it is vital that each person has the opportunity to explain, on the claim form, exactly how their disability affects their personal care and mobility needs. In addition, over 70% of DLA working age customers have more than one medical condition and forms must therefore allow customers to explain the needs arising from physical, mental or sensory impairments, or any combination of these.

Since September 2005, we have aimed to better balance the needs of both our customers and our decision makers by changing the format of our claim forms to a tick box format with more specific questions. This enables the customer to focus more easily on the information required and simplifies completion by the customer, carer or representative. At the same time, it provides the level of detail that DCS decision makers need to understand the impact of the customer's medical condition on their daily life, when considering the legislative criteria for entitlement. The forms allow the customer to provide additional detail in free text, if necessary.

In developing a new claim form for DLA customers of working age, customer research was conducted using qualitative methods, and extensive consultation with the DCS Advisory Forum (DCS AF) was undertaken. The first version of a new DLA claim form was introduced in September 2005 and used for 6 months in the Bootle and Manchester areas. An amended version was introduced in April 2006 following further consultation with the DCS AF and this version was fully evaluated.

The evaluation undertaken found that customers were significantly more satisfied with the new claim form than had been the case in the 2005/2006 MORI survey of DCS customers about the national claim forms. Staff and decision makers in particular, were also generally positve about the new form compared to the previous version, particularly the inclusion of tick boxes.

Further revisions were made to the form as a result of ongoing evaluation and feedback, resulting in the new DLA 1 Adult claim form that was rolled out for national use in April 2007.

I now turn to part (b) of your question asking if DCS will consult with the National Autistic Society on their recommendations for changes to the application process. I can confirm that we are currently working with key stakeholders, including parents and representatives of children's welfare organisations, to consider the issues around the application process for children, including possible revisions to the DLA Child claim form. The National Autistic Society is one of the groups represented and they are therefore aware of the potential changes to the DLA Child claim form.

This work is at an early stage and development of a revised version of a DLA Child claim form for testing and evaluation is planned during 2008.

Please let me know if I can help further.

### Disabled: Access

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding has been (a) made available and (b) spent to make the buildings occupied by his Department fully accessible to disabled people. [166827]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The vast majority of the Department's estate is occupied under the terms of the PRIME PFI contract. DWP pays a unitary charge in return for fully serviced accommodation. Under the terms of the PRIME contract, Land Securities Trillium (LST) are responsible for funding works associated with legislative requirements. This includes works to improve accessibility.

### Housing Benefit: Greater London

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the median housing benefit payment made to claimants was in the private rented sector in each London local authority in 2006. [167580]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The median amount for housing benefit cannot be given as the data held are aggregate data. A mean amount has been provided instead in the following table

*Average weekly amount of housing benefit paid to private rented sector tenants by London local authorities: February, May, August and November 2006*

| | *Average weekly amount[1] (£)* |
|---|---|
| London Government Office Region | 137.94 |
| Barking | 128.42 |
| Barnet | 150.35 |
| Bexley | 120.04 |
| Brent | 143.23 |
| Bromley | 129.84 |
| Camden | 146.42 |
| City of London | 121.41 |
| Croydon | 136.99 |
| Ealing | 142.85 |
| Enfield | 140.82 |
| Greenwich | 122.77 |
| Hackney | 145.63 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 143.99 |
| Haringey | 124.61 |
| Harrow | 153.47 |
| Havering | 121.66 |
| Hillingdon | 134.58 |
| Hounslow | 132.50 |
| Islington | 130.54 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 182.21 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 136.11 |
| Lambeth | 119.93 |
| Lewisham | 129.16 |
| Merton | 136.19 |
| Newham | 126.43 |
| Redbridge | 135.17 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 132.68 |
| Southwark | 123.78 |
| Sutton | 128.33 |
| Tower Hamlets | 151.24 |
| Waltham Forest | 118.61 |
| Wandsworth | 159.13 |
| Westminster | 185.63 |

[1] Amounts are a weighted four quarter average of data at February, May, August and November 2006.

*Notes:*
1. Amounts have been shown to the nearest penny.
2. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
3. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
4. Figures for non-responding local authorities have been estimated.

*Source:*
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. scan taken in February, May, August and November 2006.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims were made for discretionary housing payments in each London local authority in 2006; how many such claims were accepted; and what the median payment was in each area. [167581]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information for 2006 is not available.

### Incapacity Benefit: Vale of York

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit payments were made in each of the last three years in the Vale of York; and if he will make a statement. [165048]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Information about the number of incapacity benefit payments is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information about the number of beneficiaries in the Vale of York is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance beneficiaries in Vale of York parliamentary constituency

| *Quarter ending* | *Beneficiaries receiving payment* |
|---|---|
| May 2005 | 1,760 |
| May 2006 | 1,700 |
| May 2007 | 1,640 |

*Notes:*
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

*Source:*
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent WPLS

### In-work Premium Payments

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of all recipients of in-work premium payments remained in work for the full year for which the payment applied; and what assessment he has made of how this compares to the job retention rates for groups not entitled to such payments; [167577]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of in-work premium payments in respect of *(a)* job retention and *(b)* in-work poverty. [167578]

**Caroline Flint:** 59 per cent. of in-work credit claims were for the full year. This is the best indication we have of the proportion of recipients who sustained employment for at least one year.

DWP has recently published an initial impact assessment of lone parent pilots, including in-work credit, after 12 to 24 months of the pilots' operation. Although it was not possible for the initial report to examine job retention rates, the next report, due to be published summer 2008, will examine the longer term impacts of the pilot, including retention. Forthcoming qualitative research will also examine the effects of in-work credit on job retention, to provide context for the findings from the impact assessment.

Recent qualitative research with lone parents and Jobcentre Plus staff supports the view that in-work credit aids employment retention.

In-work poverty is not part of the planned evaluation of in-work credit.

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received an in-work premium payment in each quarter since its inception. [167576]

**Caroline Flint:** The available information is shown in the following table.

| *Quarters* | *Number of in-work credit starts* |
|---|---|
| *2004* | |
| April to June | 360 |
| July to September | 460 |
| October to December | 1,780 |
| *2005* | |
| January to March | 2,160 |
| April to June | 3,060 |
| July to September | 3,380 |
| October to December | 5,220 |
| *2006* | |
| January to March | 5,560 |
| April to June | 5,500 |
| July to September | 5,980 |
| October to December | 5,900 |
| *2007* | |
| January to March | 5,520 |
| April to June | 6,040 |

*Notes:*
1. Rounded to nearest 20.
2. Information is provided to June 2007 as this is the last quarter available.

*Source:*
Resource Management database.

### Jobcentre Plus: Dismissal

**Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in Jobcentre Plus have been dismissed in the last 12 months due to their attendance record. [168445]

**Caroline Flint:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 4 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the number of staff in Jobcentre Plus who have been dismissed in the last 12 months due to their attendance record. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The latest available information is that 497 people were dismissed due to unsatisfactory attendance between October 2006 and September 2007.

The attendance management procedures operated by Jobcentre Plus are within the framework set in the Department for Work and Pensions attendance management policy.

I hope this is helpful.

### Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people there are on each grading of Jobcentre Plus's customer assessment tool. [168770]

**Caroline Flint:** The information requested is not routinely collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Jobcentre Plus: Standards

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the 56th Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Session 2006-07 HC 312, if he will monitor the performance of Jobcentre Plus by the exit to employment successes of individual personal advisers. [167688]

**Caroline Flint:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 4 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking if he will monitor the performance of Jobcentre Plus by the exit to employment successes of individual personal advisers. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We have no plans to monitor the performance of Jobcentre Plus by the exit to employment successes of individual personal advisers. However, we will continue to monitor our success in helping people into work at national and district level through the Job Outcome Target.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a claimant may be refused jobseeker's allowance on the grounds of having voluntarily left employment where they have done so following *(a)* domestic violence, *(b)* bereavement and *(c)* dismissal because of inability to meet the conditions of employment due to child care responsibilities. [171488]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Jobseekers Act 1995 states to receive jobseeker's allowance a claimant's unemployment must be involuntary. An independent decision maker will consider why a claimant's employment has ended and whether they had just cause. All the factors in which the claimant's employment ended will be considered as a whole, including personal or domestic life aspects. Where domestic violence, bereavement or child care responsibilities are factors they will be taken into account.

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what circumstances the jobseeker's allowance regime permits claimants to participate in *(a)* full or *(b)* part-time education or training. [171489]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** To receive and continue to receive jobseeker's allowance, claimants must be available and actively seeking work. Generally claimants who are in full-time education are not regarded as available for employment during the period of study. Similarly those in full-time training are not regarded as available and are not entitled to jobseeker's allowance.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants can however, undertake part-time skills training provided it does not conflict with the work search requirements of their benefit.

However, obtaining skills can be an important factor in finding and retaining work. Therefore claimants will be treated as available if they are participating in an employment related course of up to two weeks approved in advance by DWP, or aged 25 or over and on an approved employment related course including one under the new deal for up to nine months.

Intensive training for longer than two weeks can only be accessed by moving an individual from jobseeker's allowance onto a training allowance, which protects eligibility to passported benefits including housing benefit and council tax benefit. Training allowances have to date, only been offered to a limited number. In "Opportunity, Employment and Progression: making skills work", published on 26 November, we announced our intention to increase access to such training allowances.

Subject to adviser discretion, customers who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months or more will be moved to a training allowance and will be able to undertake training full-time, employability focussed training designed to meet employer needs for up to eight weeks.

Further, in recognition of the importance of obtaining skills in increasing the employment prospects for some Jobcentre Plus customers, we have also announced that we will be piloting mandatory training where the adviser thinks this is appropriate, to test if this increases job outcome rates and employment sustainability and progression.

### Local Employment Partnerships

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many companies are participating in local employment partnerships. [168771]

**Caroline Flint:** So far, 225 employers have agreed to participate in local employment partnerships. 85 of these have already started to implement their partnerships.

### Peel Park House

**Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the designed staff capacity is for his Department's offices at Peel Park House near Blackpool. [167265]

**Mrs. McGuire:** Peel Park is capable of supporting between 1,300 and 2,400 staff, depending on the configuration of the space required, for example the number of meeting rooms and other space to support business operations and whether non-territorial working is in operation. Based on current estimates for future headcounts, DWP is planning to house 920 staff in Peel Park in 2008. Plans are being considered for further estate rationalisation during 2008-09, which could increase the overall staff numbers at Peel Park by as many as 200.

### Pension Protection Fund

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what information was used to calculate invoices for the Pension Protection Fund in 2006-07; [165390]

(2) what information was used to calculate the levies for the Pension Protection Fund in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [165392]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The Pension Protection Fund (PPF) is partly funded by a Pension Protection Levy and an Administration Levy on all eligible defined-benefit occupational pension schemes. The PPF is also funded by the assets of schemes that transfer into the PPF and the investment returns of these assets.

The Administration Levy is set by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under section 117 of the Pensions Act 2004 and is calculated and payable based on the number of members in an eligible scheme. The Administration Levy is imposed in respect of eligible schemes for the purpose of meeting the running costs of the PPF and the Fraud Compensation Fund.

Section 175 of the Pensions Act 2004 provides that the board of the PPF must impose a Pension Protection Levy which is comprised of a scheme-based element (20 per cent.) and a risk-based element (80 per cent.). The Pension Protection Levy is invested to pay compensation to members of eligible defined-benefit occupational pension schemes, when there is a qualifying insolvency event in relation to an employer and where there are insufficient assets in a pension scheme to cover PPF levels of compensation. Section 181 of the Pensions Act 2004 provides that the calculation of the Pension Protection Levy in respect of eligible schemes is a matter for the board of the PPF.

A guide to the Pension Protection Levy 2006-07 is available on the Pension Protection Fund's website at: http://www.pensionprotectionfund.org.uk/levy_guide_0607.pdf

The calculation of invoices is also a matter for the PPF board and I have asked the chief executive of the PPF, Partha Dasgupta, to write to the hon. Gentleman on these matters.

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many service calls on invoicing issues were recorded by the Pension Protection Fund in each month since the fund began operating. [165393]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** The PPF receives a range of inquiries in respect of the levy including questions, queries and remittance advice. The broad split was 1,237 (19 per cent.) in respect of levy policy and 5,238 (81 per cent.) in respect of data used for the levy.

I have asked Partha Dasgupta, the Chief Executive of the PPF to write to the hon. Gentleman on this matter.

## Pension Credit

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* pensioner households (i) were eligible and (ii) took up pension credit in each of the last five years. [166833]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien:** Estimates of the number of pensioner households eligible for pension credit and the number and proportion that take up pension credit for 2003-04 to 2005-06 can be obtained from the last two "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up' reports. Copies are available in the Library.

The 2005-06 report is the latest available, therefore eligibility and take-up figures are not available for 2007.

The number of households receiving pension credit as at May 2007 was 2.73 million and the number of individual beneficiaries as at May 2007 was 3.34 million.

*Notes:*

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

*Source:* DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

## Social Security Benefits: Christmas

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision he has made for claimants to collect their benefit for the week commencing 24 December in the week commencing 17 December. [169787]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** We have settled processes in place to advance payments for the Christmas and new year periods which have worked well for the last few years. Customers having their payments paid into bank accounts will be able to access their money from cash machines throughout the whole of the holiday period. Those customers using post office branches will be able to collect their cash earlier than normal when their post office branch is open.

## Social Security Benefits: Wrexham

**Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of children lived in families claiming benefits in each ward in Wrexham in each year since 1997; [168137]

(2) what percentage of children lived in families in receipt of disability benefits in each ward in Wrexham in each year since 1997. [168138]

**Caroline Flint:** The available information is in the following table.

*Children living in families claiming workless benefits and disability benefits in each ward in Wrexham*

| | *Percentage of children in families on workless benefits aged 0-15*[1] | | | *Percentage of children in families on disability benefits aged 0-15*[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Ward name* | *April 2004* | *April 2005* | *April 2006* | *April 2006* |
| Acton | 25.9 | 23.2 | 23.4 | 7.7 |
| Borras Park | 4.4 | 4.8 | 3.4 | 2.5 |
| Bronington | 5.0 | 4.1 | 3.3 | 2.6 |
| Brymbo | 23.6 | 26.5 | 25.1 | 6.5 |
| Brynyffynnon | 17.7 | 16.1 | 16.9 | 3.1 |
| Bryn Cefn | 22.1 | 22.9 | 20.7 | 4.1 |
| Cartrefle | 41.3 | 41.4 | 36.3 | 8.3 |
| Cefn | 21.5 | 20.8 | 21.4 | 5.6 |
| Dyffryn Ceiriog/Ceiriog Valley | 10.2 | 11.7 | 11.2 | 4.2 |
| Chirk North | 18.7 | 17.1 | 14.7 | 3.6 |
| Chirk South | 15.6 | 19.8 | 14.6 | 3.9 |
| Coedpoeth | 21.7 | 20.8 | 17.9 | 3.1 |
| Erddig | 11.2 | 9.1 | 9.4 | 5.6 |
| Esclusham | 15.5 | 14.9 | 14.0 | 3.7 |
| Gardem Village | 6.7 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 1.3 |
| Gresford East and West | 7.6 | 7.6 | 5.5 | 3.1 |
| Grosvenor | 15.8 | 13.6 | 14.7 | 8.2 |
| Gwenfro | 34.6 | 30.0 | 29.7 | 6.9 |
| Gwersyllt East and South | 18.9 | 18.8 | 18.5 | 5.0 |
| Gwersyllt North | 31.1 | 29.1 | 30.0 | 7.2 |
| Gwersyllt West | 20.4 | 21.0 | 17.4 | 4.9 |

*Children living in families claiming workless benefits and disability benefits in each ward in Wrexham*

| *Ward name* | *Percentage of children in families on workless benefits aged 0-15*[1] *April 2004* | *April 2005* | *April 2006* | *Percentage of children in families on disability benefits aged 0-15*[2] *April 2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hermitage | 30.9 | 30.2 | 30.6 | 3.8 |
| Holt | 10.0 | 7.9 | 9.0 | 3.0 |
| Johnstown | 18.6 | 17.4 | 16.8 | 2.9 |
| Little Acton | 6.7 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 5.4 |
| Llangollen Rural | 16.1 | 16.7 | 11.3 | 3.9 |
| Llay | 19.2 | 20.3 | 20.8 | 3.9 |
| Maesydre | 20.4 | 13.4 | 12.5 | 6.4 |
| Marchwiel | 12.0 | 11.3 | 9.5 | 1.9 |
| Marford and Hoseley | 1.4 | 1.6 | 3.2 | 1.4 |
| Minera | 11.3 | 11.7 | 7.1 | 2.6 |
| New Broughton | 20.1 | 19.8 | 16.7 | 3.5 |
| Offa | 18.9 | 17.0 | 10.7 | 2.5 |
| Overton | 8.4 | 9.5 | 11.0 | 1.7 |
| Pant | 32.1 | 35.0 | 32.3 | 3.4 |
| Penycae | 37.2 | 37.7 | 32.2 | 4.9 |
| Penycae and Ruabon South | 13.8 | 15.5 | 15.2 | 3.7 |
| Plas Madoc | 54.8 | 51.6 | 49.4 | 7.9 |
| Ponciau | 17.8 | 16.6 | 15.0 | 4.3 |
| Queensway | 54.4 | 53.1 | 50.6 | 3.8 |
| Rhosnesni | 6.7 | 9.2 | 8.5 | 4.8 |
| Rossett | 6.4 | 6.0 | 4.2 | 1.5 |
| Ruabon | 21.5 | 22.5 | 21.4 | 6.2 |
| Smithfield | 22.8 | 22.3 | 22.6 | 2.8 |
| Stansty | 16.7 | 16.4 | 13.1 | 5.0 |
| Whitegate | 30.4 | 25.7 | 21.8 | 4.3 |
| Wynnstay | 54.9 | 53.4 | 52.9 | 7.2 |

[1] 'Workless benefits' data represent children dependent on a parent/guardian who is claiming one or more of incapacity benefit (IB), severe disablement allowance (SDA), jobseeker's allowance (JSA), income support (IS) or pension credit (PC).
[2] 'Disability benefits' data represent children dependent on a parent/guardian who is claiming disability living allowance or attendance allowance. Information on these benefits is not available from this source prior to April 2006 as they were not required in the original specifications.
*Notes*:
1. All data represent a single snapshot in time of claimants on the computer system, and will therefore exclude a very small number of cases that are held clerically. The data are produced once a year.
2. Geo-referencing tools, obtained from the Office of National Statistics, have been used to assign claimants to geographies.
3. Due to the introduction of child tax credits in April 2003, information on child dependents is not reliably completed on the benefit computer system, therefore data from child benefit records have been merged onto IS/JSA/IB/SDA/PC claims with the permission of HMRC. The total number of children on child benefit has been used as the denominator for the percentages given.
4. The data on workless benefits are only available from April 2004, and from April 2006 for disability benefits.
5. It is possible that there will be some overlap of the figures as children could be in families that are in receipt of both workless and disability benefits.
*Source*:
Information Directorate

## JUSTICE

### Bailiffs

**Mr. Mullin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the conduct of the bailiffs, Phillips Ltd.; and if he will make a statement. [169810]

**Maria Eagle:** I have received two pieces of correspondence about the bailiff company Phillips. The first from my right hon. Friend the Member for Walsall, South (Mr. George) which was seeking clarification of their role in enforcing court imposed fines, the second from the hon. Member for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne), in connection with an incorrectly addressed letter sent by Phillips.

Phillips is contracted by Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) in the Midlands and North East Regions, to execute distress and financial arrest warrants and clamping orders on behalf of HMCS, where the defendant has failed to respond to communications and attempts from the court to enforce the fine.

My hon. Friend may be aware of an article in the Civil Enforcement News magazine which raised the concerns of Washington Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) about the conduct of Phillips when enforcing fines. Officials from HMCS have recently met with the Washington CAB to explain the enforcement process carried out by HMCS and the role of Phillips once a distress warrant has been issued to them. A joint meeting between HMCS, CAB and Phillips is due to take place in early January 2008.

### Cemeteries

**Janet Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which local authorities cover the cost of reinstatement of gravestones after they are deemed to be unsafe through topple testing. [170636]

**Bridget Prentice:** Responsibility for the maintenance of gravestones lies with their owners, or as otherwise agreed with the local authority. However, I understand that a number of local authorities have decided, at their discretion, to incur the cost of making the gravestones safe.

## Courts

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Crown courts there are; where each is located; and how many judges are attached to each court. [170098]

**Maria Eagle:** The Crown court is a single court, which currently sits at 91 locations (listed in table A). Under the provisions of section 8 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 all High Court judges, Circuit judges, Recorders, and District judges (magistrates courts) are judges of the Crown court, as are magistrates sitting in the Crown court on appeal from magistrates courts.

Under section 9 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 the Lord Chief Justice can also ask Lords Justices, retired Lords Justices, and retired High Court judges to sit as judges of the Crown court. All judges of the Crown court have the full jurisdiction of the court. Judicial resources are allocated according to the number and types of cases to be heard. The number of judges attached to each court is not held centrally and could be obtained only by contacting each court. The total number of judges is shown in table B.

*Table A*

| *Courthouse name* | *Address* |
|---|---|
| Aylesbury Crown Court | 38 Market Square, Aylesbury, HP20 1XF |
| Barnstaple Crown and Magistrates Court | Civic Centre, Barnstaple, EX31 1DY |
| Barrow Crown, Magistrates and County Court | Abbey Road, Barrow in Furness , LA14 5QX |
| Basildon Combined Court | Regent House, Basildon, SS14 2EU |
| Birmingham Crown Court | QE2 Law Courts, Birmingham, B4 7NA |
| Blackfriars Crown Court | 1 Pocock Street, London, SE1 0BT |
| Bolton Combined Court | The Law Courts, Bolton, BL1 1SU |
| Bournemouth Combined Court | Wessex Fields, Bournemouth, BH7 7DU |
| Bradford Combined Court | Drake Street, Bradford, BD1 1JA |
| Bristol Crown Court | Small Street, Bristol, BS1 1DA |
| Burnley Combined Court | Hammerton Street, Burnley, BB11 1XE |
| Bury St. Edmunds Crown and Magistrates Court | Shirehall, Bury St. Edmunds, IP1 2DX |
| Caernarfon Crown Court | Castle Ditch Road, Caernarfon, LL55 2AY |
| Cambridge Criminal Justice Centre | 84 East Road, Cambridge, CB1 1BY |
| Canterbury Combined Court | Chaucer Barracks, Canterbury, CT1 1ZA |
| Cardiff Crown Court | Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3PG |
| Carlisle Combined Court | Earl Street, Carlisle, CA1 1DJ |
| Central Criminal Court | Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7EH |
| Chelmsford Crown Court | New Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1EL |
| Chester Crown Court | The Castle, Chester, CH1 2AN |
| Chichester Combined Court | 41/42 Southgate, Chichester, PO19 1SX |
| Coventry Combined Court | 140 Much Park Street, Coventry, CV1 2SN |
| Croydon Combined Court | Altyre Road, Croydon, CR9 5AB |
| Derby Combined Court | The Morledge, Derby, DE1 2XE |
| Dolgellau Magistrates and Crown Court | County Hall, Dolgellau, LL40 1AU |
| Doncaster Crown Court | Crown Court Offices, Doncaster, DN1 3HS |
| Durham Crown Court | Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HW |
| Exeter Combined Court Centre | Southernhay Gardens, Exeter, EX4 3TH |
| Gloucester Crown Court | Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TG |
| Great Grimsby Combined Court | Town Hall Square, Grimsby, DN31 1HX |
| Guildford Crown Court | Bedford Road, Guildford, GU1 4ST |
| Harrow Crown Court | Hailsham Drive, Harrow, HA1 4TU |
| Haverfordwest Crown, Magistrates and County Court | Penffynnon, Haverfordwest, SA61 2AZ |
| Hereford Crown Court | Shire Hall, Hereford, HR1 2HW |
| Hove Trial Centre | The Court House, Hove, BN3 3BN |
| Hull Combined Court | Lowgate, Hull , HU1 2EZ |
| Inner London Sessions House (Swan Street) | Swan Street, London, SE1 1DF |
| Ipswich Criminal Justice Centre | Chancery Road, Ipswich, IP1 2DX |
| Isleworth Crown Court | 36 Ridgeway Road, Isleworth, TW7 5LP |
| Kings Lynn Crown and Magistrates Court | 1 St. Margarets Place, Kings Lynn, PE30 1PQ |
| Kingston Upon Thames Crown Court | 6-8 Penryn Road, Kingston, KT1 2BB |
| Knutsford Crown Court | County Sessions House, Knutsford, WA16 0PB |
| Lancaster Crown Court | The Castle, Lancaster, LA1 1YJ |
| Leeds Combined Court | 1 Oxford Row, Leeds, LS1 3BG |
| Leicester Crown Court | 90 Wellington Street, Leicester, LE1 6HG |
| Lewes Combined Court | 182 High Street, Lewes, BN7 1YB |
| Lincoln Crown Court | The Castle Courthouse, Lincoln, LN1 3DA |
| Liverpool Combined Court | QEII Law Courts, Liverpool, L2 1XA |
| Luton Crown Court | 7/9 George Street, Luton, LU1 2AA |
| Maidstone Combined Court | Barker Road, Maidstone, ME16 8EQ |
| Manchester Crown and County Courts | Courts Of Justice, Manchester, M60 9DJ |
| Manchester Crown Court | Minshull Street, Manchester, M1 3FS |
| Merthyr Tydfil Combined Court | Glebeland Place, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8BH |
| Mold Combined Court Centre | Shirehall, Mold, CH7 1AE |
| Newcastle Crown Court (Law Courts) | The Law Courts, Newcastle, NE1 3LA |
| Newport (IoW) Court Centre | Quay Street , Newport , PO30 5BB |
| Newport Crown Court | Faulkner Road, Newport, NP9 4PD |
| Northampton Combined Court | 85-87 Ladys Lane, Northampton, NN1 3HQ |

*Table A*

| *Courthouse name* | *Address* |
|---|---|
| Norwich Combined Court | Bishopgate, Norwich, NR3 1UR |
| Nottingham Crown and County Court | 60 Canal Street, Nottingham, NG1 7EJ |
| Oxford Combined Court Centre | 62-74 St. Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1TL |
| Peterborough Combined Court | Rivergate, Peterborough, PE1 1EJ |
| Plymouth Combined Court | Armada Way, Plymouth, PL1 2ER |
| Portsmouth Combined Court | The Courts of Justice, Portsmouth, PO1 2DL |
| Preston Crown Court | Sessions House, Preston, PR1 2PD |
| Reading Crown Court | Old Shire Hall, Reading, RG1 3EH |
| Salisbury Combined Court | Alexandra House, Salisbury, SP1 2PJ |
| Sheffield Combined Court | The Law Courts, Sheffield, S3 8PH |
| Shrewsbury Crown Court | Shire Hall, Shrewsbury, SY2 6LU |
| Snaresbrook Crown Court | Hollybush Hill, London, E11 1QW |
| Southampton Combined Court | London Road, Southampton, SO9 5AF |
| Southend Magistrates Court | 80 Victoria Avenue, Southend-On-Sea , SS2 6EG |
| Southwark Crown Court | 1 English Grounds, London, SE1 2HU |
| St. Albans Crown Court | Bricket Road, St. Albans, AL1 3JY |
| Stafford Combined Court | Victoria Square, Stafford, ST16 2QQ |
| Stoke On Trent Combined Court | Bethesda Street, Stoke on Trent, ST1 3BP |
| Swansea Crown Court | The Guildhall, Swansea, SA1 4PE |
| Swindon Combined Court | Islington Road, Swindon, SN1 2HG |
| Taunton Combined Court | The Shire Hall, Taunton, TA1 4EN |
| Teesside Combined Court | Russell Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1AE |
| Truro Combined Court | Courts of Justice, Truro, TR1 2PB |
| Warrington Combined Court | Legh Street, Warrington, WA1 1UR |
| Warwick Combined Court | Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4SP |
| Welshpool Crown and County Court | Mansion House, Welshpool, SY21 7UX |
| Weymouth and Dorchester Combined Court | County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ |
| Winchester Combined Court | The Law Courts, Winchester, SO23 9EL |
| Wolverhampton Combined Court | Pipers Row, Wolverhampton, WV1 3LQ |
| Wood Green Crown Court | Woodhall House, London, N22 5LF |
| Woolwich Crown Court | 2 Belmarsh Road, London, SE28 0EY |
| Worcester Combined Court | Shire Hall, Worcester, WR1 1TR |
| York Crown Court | The Castle, York, YO1 9WZ |

*Table B*

| *Post* | *Total* |
|---|---|
| Lords Appeal in Ordinary | 12 |
| Heads of Division (excluding the Lord Chancellor) | 4 |
| Lord Justices of Appeal | 37 |
| High Court Judges | 108 |
| Circuit Judges (inc. TCC) | 639 |
| Recorders | 1,206 |
| District Judges (inc. Family Division) | 450 |
| Deputy District Judges (inc. Family Division) | 789 |
| District Judges (MC) | 139 |
| Deputy District Judges | 169 |
| Total | 3,544 |

## Data Protection

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the Government's response was to the European Commission's infringement letter indicating that the UK's data protection law was deficient and that data protection Directive 95/46/EC had not been implemented; and if he will make a statement. [170207]

**Mr. Wills:** The European Commission, as part of its review of the implementation of the 1995 Data Protection Directive by each member state, is in discussion with the UK Government on a number of issues. Disclosing the details of those discussions at this stage would prejudice negotiations between the UK and the Commission and so prejudice UK interests. We believe that the UK has properly implemented the Data Protection Directive via the Data Protection Act 1998 and other relevant provisions of UK law.

## Departmental Reorganisation

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the total cost of creating his Department. [169696]

**Maria Eagle:** The estimate of costs incurred to create the new Ministry was estimated at £1.5 million. These costs represented mainly IT and estate activity incurred at the time the new Ministry was created in May 2007 to ensure the new Ministry could operate effectively.

Post initial set-up, the new Ministry is taking forward many initiatives which represent normal activity required to run a large delivery Department and maintain and develop its systems. Specific work is under way, for example, to develop the organisational structure and operating model in use across the Ministry.

Much of this activity would have been necessary within either the previous Department for Constitutional Affairs or the Home Office. It is therefore not possible to identify any specific incremental costs arising as a result of the creation of the Ministry.

All costs are being absorbed within the Ministry's budget.

## Driving Offences: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* speeding and *(b)* dangerous driving offences were recorded in Gloucestershire in each year since 1979. [170097]

**Maria Eagle:** Available information held by my Department for the Gloucestershire police force area, from 1980 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following table.

*Motoring offences dealt with within Gloucestershire police force area, 1980-2005*

*Number of offences*

| | *Speed limit offences*[1] | | | | *Dangerous driving offences*[2] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Written warnings* | *Fixed penalty notices*[3] | *Court proceedings*[4,5] | *Total dealt with* | *Written warnings* | *Fixed penalty notices*[3] | *Court proceedings*[4,5] | *Total dealt with* |
| 1980 | 166 | [6]— | 7,305 | 7,471 | 1 | [6]— | 21 | 22 |
| 1981 | 203 | [6]— | 7,287 | 7,490 | 0 | [6]— | 17 | 17 |
| 1982 | 89 | [6]— | 6,446 | 6,535 | 1 | [6]— | 25 | 26 |
| 1983 | 154 | [6]— | 6,697 | 6,851 | 0 | [6]— | 42 | 42 |
| 1984 | 151 | [6]— | 6,073 | 6,224 | 0 | [6]— | 54 | 54 |
| 1985 | 65 | [6]— | 5,291 | 5,356 | 4 | [6]— | 42 | 46 |
| 1986 | 99 | 1,265 | 7,207 | 8,571 | 3 | [6]— | 44 | 47 |
| 1987 | 30 | 5,467 | 4,376 | 9,873 | 2 | [6]— | 55 | 57 |
| 1988 | 29 | 4,120 | 4,148 | 8,303 | 0 | [6]— | 82 | 82 |
| 1989 | 36 | 3,959 | 2,460 | 6,455 | 6 | [6]— | 72 | 78 |
| 1990 | 69 | 6,020 | 3,639 | 9,728 | 13 | [6]— | 54 | 67 |
| 1991 | 39 | 8,417 | 5,084 | 13,540 | 4 | [6]— | 79 | 83 |
| 1992 | 72 | 6,921 | 3,570 | 10,563 | 0 | [6]— | 78 | 78 |
| 1993 | 53 | 4,059 | 1,912 | 6,024 | 7 | [6]— | 84 | 91 |
| 1994 | 56 | 5,611 | 2,005 | 7,672 | 3 | [6]— | 94 | 97 |
| 1995 | 21 | 4,774 | 2,627 | 7,422 | 0 | [6]— | 88 | 88 |
| 1996 | 7 | 4,538 | 3,586 | 8,131 | 4 | [6]— | 63 | 67 |
| 1997 | 32 | 6,260 | 2,369 | 8,661 | 2 | [6]— | 95 | 97 |
| 1998 | 4 | 8,714 | 2,120 | 10,838 | 0 | [6]— | 138 | 138 |
| 1999 | 5 | 6,268 | 1,823 | 8,096 | 1 | [6]— | 132 | 133 |
| 2000 | 28 | 5,781 | 2,675 | 8,484 | 0 | [6]— | 99 | 99 |
| 2001 | 102 | 4,097 | 2,323 | 6,522 | 0 | [6]— | 126 | 126 |
| 2002 | 2 | 3,898 | 1,319 | 5,219 | 0 | [6]— | 102 | 102 |
| 2003 | 10 | 3,139 | 1,190 | 4,339 | 0 | [6]— | 107 | 107 |
| 2004 | 4 | 4,913 | 1,107 | 6,024 | 0 | [6]— | 105 | 105 |
| 2005 | 16 | 10,849 | 1,050 | 11,915 | 0 | [6]— | 115 | 115 |

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 2 as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 s. 2.
[3] Fixed penalty notices paid i.e. no further action.
[4] Will include fixed penalty notices issued but not paid and referred to court.
[5] From 1980-1997 findings of guilt at all courts, numbers of court proceedings are not available. From 1998 onwards covers total proceedings at magistrates courts.
[6] Not applicable.

*Notes:*
1. It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

## Fixed Penalties: Drunkenness

**John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of revenue likely to arise from fixed penalty fines levied on people found drunk in public houses in the next 12 months. [170315]

**Mr. Hanson:** No estimate has been made. Under the Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme, police can issue fixed penalties of £50 to persons found drunk in a public place. However, data on the exact location where the offence took place are not collected.

## Office of the Information Commissioner: Finance

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 303-4W, on the Office of the Information Commissioner: finance, if he will review the appropriateness of the funding arrangements for the information responsibilities of the Information Commissioner's Office. [170422]

**Mr. Wills:** The Information Commissioner's data protection work is funded by the retention of notification fees paid by data controllers under section 26 of the Data Protection Act 1998. My Department continues to engage constructively with him on the resource implications of the additional inspection powers announced by the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. My Department provides a yearly grant in aid for his freedom of information work, and there are no plans to review this arrangement.

### Police Custody: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* police cells and *(b)* custody suites in West Chelmsford constituency were occupied by prisoners remanded in custody by the courts in the latest period for which figures are available. [169768]

**Mr. Hanson:** Between 12 October 2006 and 30 November 2007 prisoners were held in police cells under Operation Safeguard in West Chelmsford on the nights of 22 January, 23 April and 21 May. On these dates, the number of prisoners held were one, two and one respectively.

### Prison Service: Public Appointments

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information is used by the Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service in authorising managed moves; who is responsible for providing that information; how he establishes whether there are exceptional circumstances to warrant a managed move; and if he will make a statement. [170797]

**Maria Eagle:** Appointments within the operational senior manager grade are authorised by the Deputy Director General in his position as Chair of the Succession Planning Committee. Managed appointments are made on the basis of information and knowledge from a number of sources, including line managers and the Resourcing and Talent Management teams within the HR Directorate.

The policy on managed appointments is published in Prison Service Order 8110. There is no requirement for the circumstances to be exceptional to warrant a managed appointment.

### Prison Service: Racism

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the policy is of HM Prison Service on the employment of members of organisations it classes as racist. [169986]

**Maria Eagle:** HM Prison Service has a policy of prohibiting people who work for it from being members of groups or organisations considered to have racist philosophies, principles, aims or policies.

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations HM Prison Service classes as racist. [169987]

**Maria Eagle:** HM Prison Service has a policy of prohibiting people who work for it from being members of groups or organisations considered to have racist philosophies, principles, aims or policies. In particular, no one working for HMPS can be a member of the British National party (BNP), the National Front, Combat 18 or any other group or organisation promoting racism. It is important to note that these groups are cited as examples and are not an exhaustive or definitive list.

### Prisoners

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prisoner to officer ratio was at each prison establishment at the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [170796]

**Maria Eagle:** The prisoner to officer ratio for each prison at the end of October is shown in the table. The data are provisional and subject to in year validation.

The following table shows the prisoner to officer ratio at the end of October 2007.

| *Establishment name* | *Population* | *All Officer grades* | *Prisoner to officer ratio* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acklington | 876 | 236 | 3.71 - 1 |
| Albany | 527 | 150 | 3.51 - 1 |
| Ashwell | 540 | 104 | 5.19 - 1 |
| Askham Grange | 113 | 29 | 3.90 - 1 |
| Aylesbury | 443 | 182 | 2.43 - 1 |
| Bedford | 484 | 152 | 3.18 - 1 |
| Belmarsh | 914 | 520 | 1.76 - 1 |
| Birmingham | 1,452 | 525 | 2.77 - 1 |
| Blakenhurst | 1,069 | 259 | 4.13 - 1 |
| Blantyre House | 119 | 36 | 3.31 - 1 |
| Blundeston | 462 | 149 | 3.10 - 1 |
| Brinsford | 470 | 245 | 1.92 - 1 |
| Bristol | 604 | 230 | 2.63 - 1 |
| Brixton | 806 | 220 | 3.66 - 1 |
| Brockhill | 167 | 76 | 2.20 - 1 |
| Buckley Hall | 382 | 107 | 3.57 - 1 |
| Bullingdon | 966 | 235 | 4.11 - 1 |
| Bullwood Hall | 178 | 77 | 2.31 - 1 |
| Camp Hill | 598 | 161 | 3.71 - 1 |
| Canterbury | 282 | 109 | 2.59 - 1 |
| Cardiff | 755 | 257 | 2.94 - 1 |
| Castington | 401 | 217 | 1.85 - 1 |
| Channings Wood | 726 | 182 | 3.99 - 1 |
| Chelmsford | 705 | 226 | 3.12 - 1 |
| Coldingley | 390 | 96 | 4.06 - 1 |
| Dartmoor | 638 | 175 | 3.65 - 1 |
| Deerbolt | 449 | 188 | 2.39 - 1 |
| Dorchester | 226 | 110 | 2.05 - 1 |
| Dover | 308 | 123 | 2.50 - 1 |
| Downview | 354 | 120 | 2.95 - 1 |
| Drake Hall | 286 | 92 | 3.11 - 1 |
| Durham | 949 | 333 | 2.85 - 1 |
| East Sutton Park | 87 | 20 | 4.35 - 1 |
| Eastwood Park | 333 | 152 | 2.19 - 1 |
| Edmunds Hill | 361 | 126 | 2.87 - 1 |
| Erlestoke | 403 | 114 | 3.54 - 1 |
| Everthorpe | 672 | 177 | 3.80 - 1 |
| Exeter | 484 | 188 | 2.57 - 1 |
| Featherstone | 668 | 157 | 4.25 - 1 |
| Feltham | 595 | 398 | 1.49 - 1 |
| Ford | 468 | 58 | 8.07 - 1 |
| Foston Hall | 265 | 153 | 1.73 - 1 |
| Frankland | 724 | 593 | 1.22 - 1 |
| Full Sutton | 581 | 478 | 1.22 - 1 |

| Establishment name | Population | All Officer grades | Prisoner to officer ratio |
|---|---|---|---|
| Garth | 682 | 290 | 2.35 - 1 |
| Garth | 572 | 212 | 2.70 - 1 |
| Glen Parva | 812 | 266 | 3.05 - 1 |
| Gloucester | 302 | 123 | 2.46 - 1 |
| Grendon | 530 | 142 | 3.73 - 1 |
| Guys Marsh | 556 | 131 | 4.24 - 1 |
| Haslar | 119 | 52 | 2.29 - 1 |
| Haverigg | 556 | 141 | 3.94 - 1 |
| Hewell Grange | 152 | 31 | 4.90 - 1 |
| High Down | 746 | 243 | 3.07 - 1 |
| Highpoint | 809 | 188 | 4.30 - 1 |
| Hindley | 504 | 224 | 2.25 - 1 |
| Hollesley Bay | 322 | 52 | 6.19 - 1 |
| Holloway | 469 | 267 | 1.76 - 1 |
| Holme House | 1,005 | 308 | 3.26 - 1 |
| Hull | 1,035 | 331 | 3.13 - 1 |
| Huntercombe | 360 | 159 | 2.26 - 1 |
| Kennet | 336 | 131 | 2.56 - 1 |
| Kingston | 198 | 75 | 2.64 - 1 |
| Kirkham | 539 | 93 | 5.80 - 1 |
| Kirklevington | 224 | 45 | 4.98 - 1 |
| Lancaster | 175 | 88 | 1.99 - 1 |
| Lancaster Farms | 496 | 248 | 2.00 - 1 |
| Latchmere House | 203 | 35 | 5.80 - 1 |
| Leeds | 1,025 | 388 | 2.64 - 1 |
| Leicester | 349 | 138 | 2.53 - 1 |
| Lewes | 516 | 170 | 3.04 - 1 |
| Leyhill | 397 | 74 | 5.36 - 1 |
| Lincoln | 738 | 213 | 3.46 - 1 |
| Lindholme | 1,018 | 249 | 4.09 - 1 |
| Littlehey | 698 | 157 | 4.45 - 1 |
| Liverpool | 1,389 | 418 | 3.32 - 1 |
| Long Lartin | 416 | 368 | 1.13 - 1 |
| Low Newton | 300 | 157 | 1.91 - 1 |
| Maidstone | 479 | 156 | 3.07 - 1 |
| Manchester | 1,240 | 504 | 2.46 - 1 |
| Moorland | 1,038 | 333 | 3.12 - 1 |
| Morton Hall | 347 | 114 | 3.04 - 1 |
| Mount | 760 | 171 | 4.44 - 1 |
| New Hall | 398 | 216 | 1.84 - 1 |
| North Sea Camp | 273 | 58 | 4.71 - 1 |
| Northallerton | 245 | 65 | 3.77 - 1 |
| Norwich | 523 | 211 | 2.48 - 1 |
| Nottingham | 555 | 224 | 2.48 - 1 |
| Onley | 644 | 203 | 3.17 - 1 |
| Parkhurst | 523 | 188 | 2.78 - 1 |
| Pentonville | 1,150 | 370 | 3.11 - 1 |
| Portland | 543 | 206 | 2.64 - 1 |
| Preston | 733 | 263 | 2.79 - 1 |
| Ranby | 1,040 | 259 | 4.02 - 1 |
| Reading | 279 | 116 | 2.41 - 1 |
| Risley | 1,084 | 290 | 3.74 - 1 |
| Rochester | 391 | 172 | 2.27 - 1 |
| Send | 207 | 77 | 2.69 - 1 |
| Sheppey Cluster | 2,171 | 617 | 3.52 - 1 |
| Shepton Mallet | 189 | 66 | 2.86 - 1 |
| Shrewsbury | 329 | 111 | 2.96 - 1 |
| Stafford | 670 | 174 | 3.85 - 1 |
| Stocken | 661 | 176 | 3.76 - 1 |
| Stoke Heath | 611 | 252 | 2.42 - 1 |
| Styal | 452 | 196 | 2.31 - 1 |
| Sudbury | 559 | 65 | 8.60 - 1 |
| Swansea | 423 | 154 | 2.75 - 1 |
| Swinfen Hall | 618 | 210 | 2.94 - 1 |
| Thorn Cross | 228 | 119 | 1.92 - 1 |
| Usk\Prescoed | 385 | 92 | 4.18 - 1 |
| Verne | 590 | 117 | 5.04 - 1 |
| Wakefield | 743 | 439 | 1.69 - 1 |
| Wandsworth | 1,485 | 392 | 3.79 - 1 |
| Warren Hill | 205 | 144 | 1.42 - 1 |
| Wayland | 695 | 184 | 3.78 - 1 |
| Wealstun | 842 | 206 | 4.09 - 1 |
| Wellingborough | 640 | 178 | 3.60 - 1 |
| Werrington | 144 | 84 | 1.71 - 1 |
| Wetherby | 365 | 176 | 2.07 - 1 |
| Whatton | 760 | 221 | 3.44 - 1 |
| Whitemoor | 462 | 437 | 1.06 - 1 |
| Winchester | 550 | 190 | 2.89 - 1 |
| Woodhill | 815 | 430 | 1.90 - 1 |
| Wormwood Scrubs | 1,254 | 320 | 3.92 - 1 |
| Wymott | 1,054 | 277 | 3.81 - 1 |

## Prisoners: Foreigners

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners are being held *(a)* on indeterminate sentence for public protection after the expiry of their tariff, *(b)* on life sentences after expiry of their tariff, *(c)* on determinate sentences beyond the date at which they would be eligible for release or parole and *(d)* beyond the expiry of their sentence. [170140]

**Mr. Hanson:** Regarding *(a)*, and *(b)*, information on the numbers of prisoners held beyond their tariff is not available centrally as tariff is not recorded as part of the standard datasets. Determining the number of such prisoners who are foreign nationals would require examination of individual case files and could not be obtained without disproportionate cost. Regarding *(c)*, I refer the hon. and learned Gentleman to the answer given on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 754-5W, to the hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare (John Penrose).

In regard to *(d)* about time-served prisoners, information is not held centrally. It would also require the examination of case files and could not be obtained without disproportionate cost. I also refer the hon. and learned Member to my answer on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 809W.

## Prisons: Pay

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 787W, on Prison Service: pay,

for what reason the information on breaches of the regulations is not collected by HM Prison Service Professional Standards Unit Investigations Support Unit; and if he will make a statement. [170635]

**Maria Eagle:** The role of Investigation Support Section (ISS) is to record and track formal investigations when terms of reference are submitted by the Commissioning Manager.

ISS allocates each investigation registered to a category and one such category is fraud. However, data are not stored in the format requested in the previous question and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

### Sexual Offences: Sentencing

**Mr. Garnier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people serving indeterminate sentences with a tariff of under 24 months were convicted of sexual offences against children. [170154]

**Mr. Hanson:** A research study into prisoners received into prisons in England and Wales under Indeterminate Sentences for Public Protection (IPP) between April 2005 and March 2006, showed that 26 offenders were given an IPP with tariff of less than 24 months for sexual offences against children.

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems and data returns from prison establishments. It is possible that this total does not include all relevant offences because the offence details held within the prison IT system do not always include the victim's age.

### Victims: Compensation

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much has been raised from victims surcharge on fines payable in magistrates courts since its introduction on 1 April; [169730]

(2) who is responsible for *(a)* distributing and *(b)* administering the proceeds of the victims surcharge; [169731]

(3) to whom in each parliamentary constituency the proceeds from victims surcharge has been distributed since 1 April. [169732]

**Maria Eagle:** As at 31 October 2007, £1,078,621 had been raised from the collection of the victims surcharge since its introduction on 1 April.

The Home and Justice Secretaries and the Attorney-General are jointly responsible for deciding how revenue raised by the surcharge should be allocated. Distribution and administration in accordance with Ministers' wishes is effected by officials in the relevant Departments.

Receipts from the surcharge have been appropriated in aid as part of the Ministry of Justice Estimates for 2007-08. The Ministry of Justice makes allocations from the estimates to recipient organisations or other Departments as appropriate. Full details of how surcharge revenue is being used were given in my answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 96W, to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies).

### Young Offender Institutions: Restraint Techniques

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many injuries were incurred by boys held in *(a)* Feltham, *(b)* Foston Hall, *(c)* Hindley and *(d)* Huntercombe Young Offender Institution as a result of control and restraint in each month in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007; and if he will give details of each injury sustained. [169808]

**Maria Eagle:** At Feltham one boy sustained an injury during use of force in September 2006 and one in July 2007 recorded as "bang to the head" and "swelling to left wrist" respectively. Foston Hall held no male young offenders during 2006-07. Information on Hindley for 2006 and January 2007 was not recorded in a central database and would require disproportionate resource to collate the information. However, the following information on serious injuries obtained as a result of use of force was reported and managed through the child protection procedures:

| *Month* | *Injury* |
|---|---|
| March 2006 | Broken wrist |
| September 2006 | Broken wrist |
| September 2006 | Bruising |

In February 2007, new reporting systems were implemented which provide the following information.

| *2007* | *Minor injury (no treatment required)* | *Minor injury (medical treatment required)* | *Serious injury requiring hospital treatment* |
|---|---|---|---|
| February | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| March | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| April | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| May | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| June | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| July | 18 | 2 | 0 |
| August | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| September | 10 | 3 | 0 |
| October | 5 | 0 | 0 |

Information for Huntercombe is set out in the following table.

| *Description* | *January-December 2006* | *2007* |
|---|---|---|
| Discomfort/Swelling (Muscles and Tendons) | 1 | 6 |
| Bruising | 8 | 4 |
| Grazes and Scratches | 5 | 3 |
| Cuts | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 15 | 14 |

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many injuries were incurred by girls held in *(a)* Down View Young Offender Institution and *(b)* Eastwood Park Young Offender Institution as a result of control and restraint in each month in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007; and if he will give details of each injury sustained. [169809]

**Maria Eagle:** The Prison Service definition of 'girls' in the context of prisoners is those aged 15-17. The information for Downview and Eastwood Park is set out in the following tables.

*Downview*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| January | 0 |
| February | 2 carpet burns to elbows<br>1 shoulder pain |
| | 1 small abrasion to upper arm<br>1 superficial injury to arms |
| | 1 injured finger |
| | 1 bruising to wrist |
| | 1 bruise to right hand |
| | 1 injured tooth |
| March | 1 red marks to wrist<br>1 carpet burn to face |
| May | 1 scratch to eye |
| June | 1 bruising to wrists<br>1 strained wrists |
| August | 0 |
| October | 0 |
| November | 1 cut finger<br>1 swelling to wrist |
| Total | 16 |
| *2007* | |
| January | 1 bruised rib |
| February | 1 cuts to hands<br>1 swollen right arm |
| March | 1 scratch to head<br>1 swollen face |
| | 1 bruised shoulder |
| | 1 carpet burn to right arm |
| May | 0 |
| June | 1 bruising to arms |
| | 1 wrist bruising |
| | 1 wrist swollen |
| | 1 bruised fingers |
| | 1 scratch to cheek |
| August | 1 bumped forehead<br>1 slight laceration to left arm |
| October | 2 nose bleeds |
| November | 0 |
| Total | 16 |

*Eastwood Park*

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| January | 1 minor bruise |
| February | 2 minor bruisings |
| May | 1 minor bruise |
| September | 0 |
| October | 0 |
| Total | 4 |
| *2007* | |
| January | 0 |
| February | 0 |
| May | 0 |
| September | 1 painful ankle<br>1 painful wrist |
| October | 1 painful shoulder<br>1 painful wrist |
| | 1 lip/minor bleeding from piercing (probably from violent act of self harm) |
| Total | 5 |

## Young Offenders

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* receptions to and *(b)* releases from young offender institutions located (i) nationally and (ii) in London took place in each of the last five years. [169814]

**Mr. Hanson:** Young Offender Institutions accommodate sentenced prisoners aged from 15 to 21. The following table shows the number of sentenced young offenders received into prison establishments in England and Wales in each year from 2002 to 2005, broken down into those sentenced by courts in London and those sentenced by courts outside of London.

| | *All* | *London* | *Outside London* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 20,239 | 2,903 | 17,336 |
| 2003 | 18,181 | 2,494 | 15,687 |
| 2004 | 18,264 | 2,493 | 15,771 |
| 2005 | 17,819 | 2,466 | 15,353 |
| 2006 | 17,985 | 2,631 | 15,354 |

We do not currently have consistent data to compare releases with receptions but expect to have reliable data for 2007 in early 2008.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

## TREASURY

### Academies

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role his Department is playing in the review of the academies programme; and if he will make a statement. [169836]

**Andy Burnham:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 916W. Treasury officials are working closely with PMDU and DCSF officials, both in carrying out the review and overseeing the review.

### Child Benefit Agency: Expenditure

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Child Benefit Office has spent on *(a)* potted plants, *(b)* taxis and *(c)* staff parties in the last five years for which figures are available. [168939]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November]:* The information is as follows.

*(a)* Child Benefit Office has spent nothing on potted plants;

*(b)* Information is only available at disproportionate cost; and

*(c)* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 29W.

### Child Benefit Agency: Visits Abroad

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Child Benefit Agency spent on staff travel overseas in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and which destinations were travelled to. [168937]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* It has been necessary for one child benefit official to travel overseas on official business, to Belgium, in the 12 month period ending 30 November 2007. The cost of air travel and hotel accommodation was reimbursed by the European Commission and the net cost to the Department for other travel and subsistence costs necessarily incurred on those trips was £104.06.

### Child Benefit: Databases

**Mr. Dismore:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the helpline number 0845 302 1444 for enquiring about child benefit database concerns is a premium rate line; if he will ensure that people are able to call the helpline at local tariff rates; and if he will make a statement. [169726]

**Jane Kennedy:** This is not a premium rate line. HMRC policy is to operate customer facing helplines using an 0845 prefix rather than premium rate lines. The cost of calls to 0845 and other non geographic numbers is dependent on several factors. Calls are charged to the customer based on the tariff arrangements they have with their service provider, the device they use for the call and the location from which they call.

### Child Benefit: Northamptonshire

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child benefit claimants there are in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* Kettering constituency. [171067]

**Jane Kennedy:** Figures showing the number of families receiving child benefit at regional and parliamentary constituency level for the UK are published on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child benefit/geographical.htm

### Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information the National Audit Office (NAO) is entitled to request from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on child benefit claims; and by what mechanisms such information is provided to the NAO by HMRC. [167557]

**Jane Kennedy:** The NAO derive their authority from four main Acts of Parliament; these are the Exchequer and Audit Department Acts 1866 and 1921, the National Audit (NAO) Act 1983 and the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. They have a right of access at all reasonable times to all official documents that they reasonably require for the purposes of their audit. The mechanisms by which such information is provided to the NAO vary according to the request.

On 13 November HMRC initiated immediate increased security with a new process:

transfers will now only take place if they are absolutely necessary;

written authorisation for the transfer has to be given by senior HMRC manager; and

a clear instruction has been given regarding the appropriate standard of protection for the transfer.

Where directors decide that a data transfer by disc is unavoidable such media must, in every case, be securely encrypted at the appropriate level.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information from the child benefit database was requested by the National Audit Office from HM Revenue and Customs in October; and in what respect the information sent in response was more extensive that that requested. [167701]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* There is an ongoing Metropolitan Police investigation into the matter, and the Chancellor has appointed Kieran Poynter, chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers, to investigate HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling. As part of his review Kieran Poynter has been asked to produce an interim report by 14 December.

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the measures HM Revenue and Customs have taken to *(a)* prevent, *(b)* detect and *(c)* prosecute identity theft related to tax credit awards. [168056]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* HM Revenue and Customs have robust strategies in place for tackling fraud including a range of checks throughout the life of each claim. They continually refine and develop their processes to ensure they stay one step ahead of those who seek to de-fraud the system and respond quickly when new threats are identified.

HMRC have embedded compliance specialists in contact centres to provide additional support and specialist knowledge and raise fraud awareness.

If fraud is suspected, payments are stopped. HMRC always investigate allegations of fraud and can and do prosecute.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the grade was of the HM Revenue and Customs official who downloaded and posted discs containing confidential child benefit information. [168211]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04. It would be inappropriate to provide further information relating to this issue as there is an ongoing Metropolitan Police Service investigation.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the role of TNT in the loss of two discs containing personal details of families claiming tax credits; and if he will make a statement; [168222]

(2) what steps he is taking to search for the missing discs containing information about families claiming tax credits. [168223]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* No tax credit data was lost on the two discs in question.

There is an ongoing police investigation in relation to the loss of discs containing child benefit data. The police are conducting searches and the priority remains to find the missing data.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls there were to HM Revenue and Custom's Child Benefit Helpline on each day since 19 September 2007. [168366]

**Child Benefit Helpline**

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The following table provides HMRC's best current estimate of all calls handled by the child benefit helpline on each day from 19 September 2007 until 21 November 2007 inclusive.

| *Date* | *Calls handled* |
|---|---|
| 19 September 2007 | 16,678 |
| 20 September 2007 | 16,203 |
| 21 September 2007 | 16,096 |
| 22 September 2007 | 2,764 |
| 23 September 2007 | 1,677 |
| 24 September 2007 | 20,024 |
| 25 September 2007 | 18,073 |
| 26 September 2007 | 17,305 |
| 27 September 2007 | 16,748 |
| 28 September 2007 | 14,765 |
| 29 September 2007 | 2,343 |
| 30 September 2007 | 1,222 |
| 1 October 2007 | 20,868 |
| 2 October 2007 | 18,778 |
| 3 October 2007 | 16,767 |
| 4 October 2007 | 15,842 |
| 5 October 2007 | 13,377 |
| 6 October 2007 | 2,098 |
| 7 October 2007 | 949 |
| 8 October 2007 | 19,979 |
| 9 October 2007 | 17,583 |
| 10 October 2007 | 16,134 |
| 11 October 2007 | 15,129 |
| 12 October 2007 | 13,112 |
| 13 October 2007 | 2,458 |
| 14 October 2007 | 902 |
| 15 October 2007 | 20,724 |
| 16 October 2007 | 18,973 |
| 17 October 2007 | 15,736 |
| 18 October 2007 | 14,826 |
| 19 October 2007 | 13,536 |
| 20 October 2007 | 2,349 |
| 21 October 2007 | 896 |
| 22 October 2007 | 19,240 |
| 23 October 2007 | 15,505 |
| 24 October 2007 | 13,656 |
| 25 October 2007 | 13,101 |
| 26 October 2007 | 12,193 |
| 27 October 2007 | 2,360 |
| 28 October 2007 | 906 |
| 29 October 2007 | 19,003 |
| 30 October 2007 | 17,171 |
| 31 October 2007 | 14,377 |
| 1 November 2007 | 14,073 |
| 2 November 2007 | 13,210 |
| 3 November 2007 | 2,243 |
| 4 November 2007 | 912 |
| 5 November 2007 | 19,220 |
| 6 November 2007 | 17,069 |
| 7 November 2007 | 15,367 |
| 8 November 2007 | 14,790 |
| 9 November 2007 | 12,898 |
| 10 November 2007 | 2,668 |
| 11 November 2007 | 1,006 |
| 12 November 2007 | 18,237 |
| 13 November 2007 | 17,317 |
| 14 November 2007 | 15,115 |
| 15 November 2007 | 14,457 |
| 16 November 2007 | 13,065 |
| 17 November 2007 | 2,052 |
| 18 November 2007 | 963 |
| 19 November 2007 | 17,880 |
| 20 November 2007 | 21,742 |
| 21 November 2007 | 38,382 |

### Child Benefit: Pregnant Women

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his announcement of child benefits in pregnancy in his 2006 pre-Budget Speech, if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* representations he has received and *(b)* minutes of meetings he has held on that policy since that date. [170574]

**Jane Kennedy:** Representations received on the Health in Pregnancy Grant since the 2006 pre-Budget report are contained in the Treasury's 14 November 2007 press notice on the grant, on the HM Treasury website. Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

### Child Care Tax Credit

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households were in receipt of childcare tax credit in each local authority in England in April 2007. [170670]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available at this date.

The latest information available on the average number of families benefiting from the childcare element of working tax credit, by local authority, is published in the HMRC statistical publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Awards 2005-06. Geographical analyses", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2006-07 is due to be published in May 2008.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168594]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC records show that seven computer base units and 45 laptop computers were reported stolen between 1 January 2007 and 28 November 2007, 16 of them during a break in at one of HMRC's offices. The cost of replacement is approximately £43,000.

HMT records show that six laptop computers were reported stolen in 2007. The cost of replacement is approximately £4,000. No other computers were recorded as stolen.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of encrypting all sensitive e-mails sent from his Department. [168866]

**Jane Kennedy:** The costs of encrypting e-mails sent from HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs is not available. These costs are included in the overall costs of the services provided.

### Departmental Databases

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when each electronic database in his Department containing personal information on members of the public was first created. [169711]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

### EU Budget

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's most recent estimate is of the levels of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* waste in expenditure under the EU budget in 2007. [170445]

**Kitty Ussher:** Table 1 (page 5) of the European Anti Fraud Office's (OLAF) fight against fraud report in respect of 2006 estimated the levels of fraud in that year. The Government's EU expenditure reform priorities include the phasing out of CAP direct payments by 2020, and Structural and Cohesion Funds, of which in 2007 60 per cent. of spending is still going to richer member states.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much underspend there was on the European Communities annual budget in each year since 1997; and how much of that underspend was *(a)* carried over into the following year's budget, *(b)* returned to member states and *(c)* returned to the United Kingdom. [170446]

**Kitty Ussher:** All EC budget surpluses are returned to member states in the following year.

The surpluses and the GNI-shares on which they are returned to member states are detailed annually in Amending Budgets published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union—the most recent of which is Amending Budget 3/2007 (*Official Journal* of the European Union[1]/203 Budget 3/2007).

[1] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm.

### EU Law: Insurance

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ensure that European Union legislation on the regulation of the commercial insurance brokerage industry is not gold-plated in its implementation by the Financial Services Authority. [168620]

**Kitty Ussher:** The regulation of commercial insurance brokerage is ultimately a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The FSA is independent from the Government although subject to the provisions of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA).

The FSA has an obligation under FSMA to undertake cost-benefit analysis of any proposed new rule. The FSA has committed to go beyond the minimum standards necessary when implementing EU law on financial services only where a demonstrably convincing case can be made.

The FSA is currently looking at its general insurance regime through a review of its Insurance: Conduct of Business (ICOB) rules. In particular it is looking at those ICOB rules that require firms to go beyond the minimum necessary to comply with the relevant EU Directives.

### Foreigners: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-UK domiciled persons became resident in London in each of the last 10 years for *(a)* fewer than 12 months and *(b)* more than 12 months. [169673]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available.

### HM Revenue and Customs

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-2, on HM Revenue and Customs, how many of the individuals' records missing in the transfer of information from HM Revenue and Customs are *(a)* current and *(b)* former claimants of child benefit. [168561]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement given in the House by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04.

### Income Tax

**Stewart Hosie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the percentage of income tax payable which was collected in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK in 2007. [171194]

**Jane Kennedy:** Information on income tax liabilities in Scotland and the UK can be found in table 3.11 "Income and tax by gender, region and country" on the HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

The information is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2004-05 is the latest available.

The Scottish Executive produce estimates of tax revenues attributable to Scotland in their publication "Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland". These are published at:

http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/159996/0043602.pdf

### Inheritance Tax

**Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the cost of raising the inheritance tax threshold to £1 million while maintaining the married couples transferable allowance over the comprehensive spending review period. [163259]

**Jane Kennedy:** Raising the inheritance tax nil rate band to £1,000,000 with effect from 2008-09 would have the following impact on forecast revenue receipts:

*Estimated reduction in revenue arising from raising the nil rate band to £1,000,000*

| | £ billion |
|---|---|
| | *Retaining transferable allowances* |
| 2008-09 | 1 |
| 2009-10 | 2 |
| 2010-11 | 2 |

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated cost to the Exchequer would be of raising the individual inheritance tax allowance to £1,000,000 if *(a)* allowances were transferable between spouses and civil partners as announced in the 2007 pre-Budget report and *(b)* the system operated as it did prior to the changes announced in the 2007 pre-Budget report in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [162581]

**Jane Kennedy:** Raising the inheritance tax nil rate band to £1,000,000 with effect from 2008-09 would have the following impact on forecast revenue receipts:

*Estimated reduction in revenue arising from raising the nil rate band to £1,000,000*

| | | £ billion |
|---|---|---|
| | *(a) Retaining transferable allowances* | *(b) Removing transferable allowances* |
| 2008-09 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| 2009-10 | 2.0 | 1.5 |
| 2010-11 | 2.0 | 1.5 |

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Arbuthnot:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for North-East Hampshire of 23 June 2006, 1 September 2006, 29 November 2006 and 20 June 2007 on the tax credit problems of the right hon. Member's constituent Mrs. Adair. [164103]

**Jane Kennedy:** The chairman of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) wrote to the right hon. Member about his constituent's case on 27 November.

### National Insurance Contributions: Females

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason women who had stopped receiving deficiency notices prior to 1996-97 and who did not receive a letter in 2004-05 as part of the deficiency notice recovery programme were allowed to pay class 3 national insurance contributions on favourable terms in respect of the years from 1996-97 to 2001-02 inclusive. [169198]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* When deficiency notices were re-instated, legislation (SI 2004/1362) was introduced, allowing for Class 3

contributions for tax years 1996-97 to 2001-02 to be paid until 5 April 2009 (or 5 April 2010 if the contributor reached pensionable age before 24 October 2004) and allowing them to be paid at the rate in force for the tax year concerned.

Contributors are entitled to pay contributions on these terms for reasons of practicality and to reduce the administrative burden.

### National Insurance Contributions: Holiday Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on what basis he decided to abolish the national insurance contributions exemption for holiday pay schemes outside the construction industry from 30 October 2007; [162295]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely annual saving in National Insurance contributions for an employee with 20 days' annual leave earning *(a)* £10,000, *(b)* £15,000, *(c)* £20,000 and *(d)* £25,000 per annum who is a member of a holiday pay scheme and does not pay Class 1 National Insurance contributions on his holiday pay; [162322]

(3) how many employees are members of holiday pay schemes, broken down by employment sector; [162323]

(4) what proportion of the savings identified in the 2007 pre-Budget report/comprehensive spending review, Table B4, from the removal of the National Insurance contributions exemption for holiday pay schemes are attributable to *(a)* employee and *(b)* employer contributions; [162324]

(5) how many employees earning *(a)* less than £10,000, *(b)* £10,000 to £15,000, *(c)* £15,000 to £20,000, *(d)* £20,000 to £25,000 and *(e)* more than £25,000 per annum are members of holiday pay schemes and not paying National Insurance contributions on their holiday pay; [162325]

(6) if he will place in the Library projections of the estimated change in Government revenue which will arise from the abolition of the National Insurance contributions exemption for holiday pay schemes in each year to 2015; [162326]

(7) what organisations his Department consulted prior to the announcement in the 2007 pre-Budget report/comprehensive spending review of the removal of the National Insurance contributions exemption for holiday pay schemes; [162327]

(8) what consideration he gave to abolishing the national insurance contributions exemption for holiday pay schemes on a phased basis; and what the reasons were for deciding not to proceed on that basis; [165522]

(9) what estimate he has made of the cost to employers outside the construction sector of ending holiday pay schemes by 30 October 2007. [165523]

**Jane Kennedy:** The NICs exemption was designed for the construction industry and dates back to the 1960s. This pre-dated the right to four weeks paid leave per year provided by the Working Time Regulation in 1998. The rationale for changes to the NICs exemption is set out in chapter five of the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review, PBR note 02 and impact assessment which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/B/9/pbr_csr07_chapters_244.pdf

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/5/3/pbr_csr07_notes520.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2007/ia-nics.pdf

The following table shows estimated annual savings in 2008-09 in employee NICs for an employee with 20 days annual leave earning at various annual rates, who is a member of a holiday pay scheme.

| *Annual pay* | *Annual saving employee NICs (£)* |
|---|---|
| £10,000 | 40 |
| £15,000 | 80 |
| £20,000 | 125 |
| £25,000 | 165 |

HMRC does not hold information on the number of employees within holiday pay schemes broken down by employment sector.

The following table shows how the savings identified in 2007 pre-Budget report Table 4, from the removal of the NICs exemption for holiday pay, are attributable to employee and employer contributions.

*£ million*

| | *2007-08* | *2008-09* | *2009-10* | *2010-11* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Employer' NICs | 50 | 110 | 110 | 110 |
| Employee' NICs | 50 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Total | 100 | 200 | 200 | 200 |

HMRC does not hold information on the income of employees within holiday pay schemes.

Definitive projections to 2015 are not available. An estimate of the revenue from the measure beyond that outlined in the pre-Budget Report is stated in the Impact Assessment.

HMRC held a number of meetings with representatives of the construction sector holiday pay funds and their professional advisers.

### Northern Rock

**Peter Viggers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements are in place for Northern Rock to pay interest on monies advanced to it by the Bank of England; what interest rate applies; and when it will be payable. [168358]

**Kitty Ussher** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* I refer the right hon. Gentlemen to the letters the Chancellor sent to the chairs of the Public Accounts Committee and the Treasury Select Committee on 11 October 2007, which are available in the House Library.

### Northern Rock: Pensions

**Mr. Henderson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make representations to the pensions regulator to ensure that existing and future liabilities of the pension schemes of those employed by Northern Rock are fully funded. [169849]

**Kitty Ussher:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Eastbourne (Mr. Waterson) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1187W.

### Personation

**Martin Horwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce the vulnerability of tax correspondence to identify theft. [165217]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC initiated immediate increases in security with a new process:

transfers will now only take place if they are absolutely necessary;

written authorisation for the transfer has to be given by senior HMRC manager; and

a clear instruction has been given regarding the appropriate standard of protection for the transfer.

Where directors decide that a data transfer by disc is unavoidable such media must, in every case, be securely encrypted at the appropriate level.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

### Public Expenditure: Wales

**Adam Price:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 57W, on public expenditure: Wales, what elements of spending in relation to subscriptions to international organisations are devolved; what transport programmes Cycling England spending is now subsumed within; and what the comparability factor of that programme is for Wales. [170222]

**Andy Burnham:** UK Departments pay subscriptions to international organisations on behalf of the United Kingdom as a whole. In some circumstances, the devolved Administrations may make a contribution towards a UK Department's expenditure on international subscriptions. Information relating to individual contributions could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure previous recorded under the Cycling England programme is now carried within the Local Transport group of programmes. Annex C of the October 2007 edition of "Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly: Statement of Funding Policy" shows this area of spending to be comparable in Wales. The SFP gives details of all comparability factors.

### Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training procedures are in place for staff at HM Revenue and Customs on security of information. [168467]

**Jane Kennedy:** It would be inappropriate to comment on this issue as there is an ongoing Metropolitan Police Service investigation and an independent review of HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling led by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007_133_07.cfm and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Revenue and Customs: Stroud

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff there are at the Stroud tax office; and how many there were in each year since 1997. [171015]

**Jane Kennedy:** The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by HM Revenue and Customs (the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise before April 2005) in Stroud was:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 1 October 2007 | 71 |
| 1 April 2007 | 83 |
| 1 April 2006 | 44 |
| 1 April 2005 | 49 |
| 1 April 2004 | 51 |
| 1 April 2003 | 51 |
| 1 April 2002 | 51 |
| 1 April 2001 | 47 |
| 1 April 2000 | 52 |
| 1 April 1999 | 51 |
| 1 April 1998 | 50 |
| 1 April 1997 | 51 |

### Smuggling: Convictions

**Mr. Jeremy Browne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of HM Revenue and Customs investigations into the smuggling of *(a)* drugs, *(b)* people, *(c)* tobacco, *(d)* alcohol and *(e)* firearms resulted in a conviction in each of the last 10 years. [168639]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 28 November 2007]:* High level data on investigations and convictions are published in HM Revenue and Customs Annual Reports. Copies of the Annual Reports are available in the Library of the House. HM Revenue and Customs is not responsible for the investigation and prosecution of people smuggling offences.

### Wealth: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of millionaires resident in the Peterborough city council area. [169826]

**Jane Kennedy:** Estimates are not available at local level.

## Welfare Tax Credits

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit *(a)* maladministration payments and *(b)* consolatory payments were made in each of the last 12 months. [167656]

**Jane Kennedy:** The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet, 'Complaints and Putting Things Right', which is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

For the number of compensation payments made each month from October 2006 to May 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1186-87W. Information for the period June 2007 to October 2007 is shown in the following table:

| *2007* | *Number of compensatory payments* |
|---|---|
| June | 1,190 |
| July | 674 |
| August | 215 |
| September | 463 |
| October | 1,197 |

The lower number of compensatory payments made over the summer reflects the fact that HMRC have been actively sifting cases to identify those affected by the administrative problem that I referred to in my written statement of 25 July. HMRC have since cleared the backlog.

## Welfare Tax Credits: Correspondence

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters on tax credits from hon. and right hon. Members to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* the Tax Credit Office were not sent a substantive reply within (i) one month, (ii) two months, (iii) three months and (iv) six months in the period 2005 to 2007. [165166]

**Jane Kennedy:** *(a)* The information is not collated in the format requested and is available only at disproportionate cost.

*(b)* Between 1 January 2005 and 30 September 2007 Tax Credit Office received around 26,500 letters from hon. and right hon. Members. The information is provided in the following table:

| *Time taken to reply* | *Number of letters* | *Percentage of letters answered* |
|---|---|---|
| Less than 30 days | 20,600 | 78 |
| 30 to 59 days | 3,300 | 12 |
| 60 to 89 days | 900 | 3 |
| 90 to 119 days | 300 | 1 |
| 180+ days | 70 | less than 1 |

## Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters were written by HM Revenue and Customs requesting the recovery of overpaid tax credits in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [167657]

**Jane Kennedy:** The number of requests to pay back overpaid tax credits (forms TC610) issued by HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months was:

| *Month* | *Forms TC610 Issued (Thousand)* |
|---|---|
| *2006* | |
| November | 281 |
| December | 26 |
| *2007* | |
| January | 45 |
| February | 72 |
| March | 54 |
| April | 42 |
| May | 77 |
| June | 71 |
| July | 91 |
| August | 272 |
| September | 684 |
| October | 151 |

Notices to pay are issued where there is no continuing tax credits entitlement and can be generated by a number of things, including changes to family circumstances or a failure to renew applications for tax credits.

The numbers in the table reflect the number of forms issued and not the number of households they were issued to. In joint claimant cases, each claimant is sent a notice to pay so one household might receive two notices.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Wednesday 5 December 2007*

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Adult Education: Finance

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what Government funding for adult education courses there has been in each year since 1997 for which records are available, broken down by local authority in the East of England. [169966]

**Bill Rammell:** The total funding allocated to providers for adult learners in the East of England region is set out in the following table. It includes funding for further education, work-based learning and adult community learning for all years, with train to gain funding included for 2006/07 and 2007/08.

It is not possible to breakdown funding by local authority as the data are not recorded on this basis. However information on adult funding by local Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for the period 2002/03 to 2005/06 is available in the LSC's published accounts.

| | *Funding totals (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2002/03 | 146,697,284 |
| 2003/04 | 179,728,472 |
| 2004/05 | 189,506,465 |
| 2005/06 | 179,843,435 |
| 2006/07 | 191,905,491 |
| 2007/08[1] | 191,950,721 |
| Totals | 1,079,631,868 |

[1] Train to gain funding included in the total for this year is based on contract values; providers will only secure the funding if they are successful in delivering to the expected number of learners.

The LSC Statement of Priorities 2008-11 published on 16 November sets out the Government's funding strategy for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Total investment through the Learning and Skills Council will increase from £11.2 billion in 2007-08 to £12.4 billion in 2010-11. Funding for adult participation will increase to £3.6 billion by 2010-11, an increase of 17 per cent. compared with 2007-08.

We will also be substantially increasing investment for adult learning through train to gain from £440 million in 2007-08 to over £1 billion by 2010-11. Taking into account both FE allocations and train to gain funding, 90 per cent. of all colleges will have the opportunity to increase their funding in 2007/08 compared with 2006/07, with 57 per cent. earning 5 per cent. or more (some of these colleges will be leading consortia).

Our priority is to make sure that adult learners have access to a full range of courses including progression and first steps learning through the foundation learning tier, learning for its own intrinsic value (personal and community development learning) as well as courses which lead to full qualifications necessary for employment. That is why we are investing around £1.5 billion per year on learning below level 2 over the next three years. The recently published "Adult Learning and Skills: Investing in the First Steps" sets the story of our investment in this area and our vision for adult learners who have not yet obtained basic skills.

### Islam: Education

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and universities are taking to address the gaps in Islamic studies teaching and research highlighted in the report Islam at Universities in England—meeting the needs and investing in the future; and how the HEFCE intends to spend the £1 million the Government committed to this work in June 2007. [169611]

**Bill Rammell:** Following the report "Islam at Universities in England", we designated Islamic studies as a strategically important subject in Higher Education. This was on the grounds of its contribution to the UK's political and cultural capital through its role in promoting understanding of Islam in the context of the world today. HEFCE are looking at longer term proposals to address the problem identified by Dr. Siddiqui that currently Islamic studies teaching and research do not address the dominant Muslim experience of the faith and its culture in Britain and are too focused on a Middle Eastern perspective and do not address the experience of living as a minority faith in a multi-cultural society.

HEFCE have set aside £1 million for 2007-08 to undertake development and research work and produce longer term proposals for addressing the gaps in Islamic studies teaching and research highlighted in the report. This development phase is well under way and we expect detailed proposals from HEFCE in summer 2008.

### National Security

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Statement of the Prime Minister of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-72, on national security, when he expects the investigation of the Higher Education Funding Council into setting up a European centre of excellence for Islamic students to be complete; what he expects its cost to be; and if he will make a statement. [168441]

**Bill Rammell:** I expect the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to report on the feasibility of establishing a European centre of excellence for Islamic studies in summer 2008. That report would include an estimate of the costs of such a centre.

In April this year, we responded to the report by Dr Siddiqui on Islam in Universities by defining Islamic studies as a strategically important subject in Higher Education. This was on the grounds of its contribution to the UK's political and cultural capital through its role in promoting understanding of Islam in the context of the world today. HEFCE are looking at longer term proposals to address the problem identified by Dr Siddiqui

that currently Islamic studies teaching and research do not address the dominant Muslim experience of the faith and its culture in Britain and are too focused on a Middle Eastern perspective and do not address the experience of living as a minority faith in a multi-cultural society.

The investigation of the idea of European centre of excellence will form part of HEFCE's work to develop a long term response, in partnership with Government and the university sector to the shortcomings in Islamic studies identified in Dr Siddiqui's report. We aim to establish the UK as an international benchmark for Islamic studies outside the Islamic world.

### Students: Loans

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of writing off unpaid student loans was in each year since their introduction. [161931]

**Bill Rammell:** Loans are cancelled due to the borrower's death; being disabled and permanently unable to work; or, for loans issued before 2006/07, on age grounds. New students from 2006 will have any remaining balance cancelled after 25 years. Student loans are not written off simply because they are unpaid.

The available data are given in the table.

*Value of student loans cancelled—borrowers domiciled in the UK to 2001-02, England from 2002-03—financial year loan cancelled*

| *Financial year* | *Cost (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1990-91 | — |
| 1991-92 | — |
| 1992-93 | 0.1 |
| 1993-94 | 0.2 |
| 1994-95 | 0.3 |
| 1995-96 | 0.5 |
| 1996-97 | 0.9 |
| 1997-98 | 1.0 |
| 1998-99 | 0.9 |
| 1999-2000[1] | 1.2 |
| 2000-01 | 1.1 |
| 2001-02 | 1.4 |
| 2002-03 | 2.0 |
| 2003-04 | 2.7 |
| 2004-05[2] | 2.4 |
| 2005-06[2] | 4.5 |
| 2006-07[3] | 5.5 |

— = Less than £50,000

[1] 1999-2000 includes some transactions which related to the previous year.

[2] 2005-06 includes some transactions which could not be processed in the previous year for operational reasons.

[3] 2006-07 data are provisional.

*Source:*
Student Loans Company

Separate England data are not available before 2002-03.

The increase in the value of loans cancelled is related to the increase in the loans portfolio, which has been growing since student loans were introduced in 1990. For English domiciled students the value of the portfolio has increased from £8.8 billion in March 2003 to £18.1 billion (provisional) in March 2007.

Student loans from the Government are not like commercial loans: interest is paid at the rate of inflation, so in real terms students only pay back what they borrowed. For income-contingent loans available since 1998, repayment is linked to earnings and borrowers only repay if their earnings are over £15,000; from April 2012 they will be able to take up to five years' 'Repayment Holiday' and those taking out a student loan from 2006 have their debt cancelled after 25 years.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170172]

**Mr. Woodward:** The following companies are under contract to my Department:

Captain Courier,
Crown Executive Cars,
DHL,
Hayes DX,
Royal Mail,
TNT.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169224]

**Paul Goggins:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171535]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

| | *End-of-year bonus payments (£)* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 132,300 |
| 2004 | 365,930 |
| 2005 | 476,299 |
| 2006 | 502,667 |
| 2007 | 557,000 |

### Missing Persons

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to improve the speed and methods by which missing persons in Northern Ireland are traced. [168541]

**Paul Goggins:** PSNI appreciates the impact on families when loved ones are reported missing, and is committed to tracing such persons. Training is given at student officer level, in detective training, and in critical incident training for senior officers. The PSNI website includes pictures and details of those missing and links to support organisations. PSNI also works with the 'Missing Kids' initiative—a partnership between police services, the Police National Missing Persons Bureau and an international charity.

New initiatives are enhancing the police service's approach to missing persons. A review of service procedures is nearly complete and includes tailored guidance on children and young persons absconding from residential care homes. PSNI has completed a pilot involving three care homes, working closely with social services.

District command units will introduce public protection units early in 2008. The units include expertise to identify trends and patterns to help ensure a corporate and effective approach on missing persons.

### Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission: Expenditure

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on *(a)* salaries, *(b)* travel and *(c)* subsistence in each financial year since 2003-04. [168533]

**Mr. Woodward:** The information requested is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| *2003-04* | |
| Salaries | 587,801 |
| Travel | 11,079 |
| Subsistence | 1,301 |
| *2004-05* | |
| Salaries | 602,553 |
| Travel | 10,165 |
| Subsistence | 778 |
| *2005-06* | |
| Salaries | 685,377 |
| Travel | 28,690 |
| Subsistence | 1,372 |
| *2006-07* | |
| Salaries | 780,747 |
| Travel | 23,767 |
| Subsistence | 2,074 |

### Police Service of Northern Ireland

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* questioned and *(b)* charged in connection with the recent attempted murders of Police Service of Northern Ireland officers in Londonderry and Dungannon. [168485]

**Paul Goggins:** The PSNI has confirmed that two people were formally questioned in connection with the attempted murder of the PSNI officer in Dungannon but later released without charge. Three people have been formally questioned in connection with the attempted murder of the PSNI officer in Londonderry. PSNI investigations are continuing into both incidents.

### Police Service of Northern Ireland: Graduates

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland regular officers are university graduates, broken down by *(a)* rank, *(b)* age, *(c)* sex and *(d)* community background. [170487]

**Paul Goggins:** I am advised that since the PSNI was established in 2001 and recruiting was outsourced, educational qualifications have not been routinely requested or supplied. This is consistent with national recruitment policy. It is, therefore, not possible to accurately state how many officers are in possession of a primary degree or equivalent as this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Police Service of Northern Ireland: Part-time Employment

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many regular officers in the Police Service of Northern Ireland worked on a part-time basis in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* community background. [170493]

**Paul Goggins:** I am advised by PSNI that, as of 30 November 2007, the breakdown of regular officers working on a part-time basis is as follows:

| *Number of officers working part-time basis* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Female* | *Male* | *Total* |
| *Protestant* | | | |
| *Age band* | | | |
| 26-29 | 2 | — | 2 |
| 30-33 | 8 | — | 8 |
| 34-37 | 12 | — | 12 |
| 38-41 | 25 | 1 | 26 |
| 42-45 | 11 | — | 11 |
| 46-49 | 2 | — | 2 |
| Total | 60 | 1 | 61 |
| *Roman Catholic* | | | |
| *Age band* | | | |
| 30-33 | 1 | — | 1 |
| 34-37 | 2 | — | 2 |
| 38-41 | 1 | — | 1 |
| 42-45 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Total | 5 | — | 5 |
| *Undetermined* | | | |
| *Age band* | | | |
| 34-37 | — | 1 | 1 |
| 42-45 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 2 |

| | Number of officers working part-time basis | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Female | Male | Total |
| *Protestant* | | | |
| *Age band* | | | |
| *Overall total* | | | |
| *Community background* | | | |
| Protestant | 60 | 1 | 61 |
| Roman Catholic | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Undetermined | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Overall Total | 66 | 2 | 68 |

**Police Service of Northern Ireland: Secondment**

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland officers were seconded to police forces in Great Britain in each year since 2005, broken down by *(a)* rank and *(b)* sex. [170491]

**Paul Goggins:** I am advised by PSNI that there have been no PSNI officers seconded to police forces in Great Britain since 2005. A number of officers have been seconded to a variety of policing agencies including Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). A breakdown by rank and gender is outlined in the following table.

| *Rank* | *Female* | *Male* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Constable | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Sergeant | — | 6 | 6 |
| Inspector | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Chief/Inspector | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Superintendent | — | 3 | 3 |
| Chief/ Superintendent | — | 3 | 3 |
| ACC | 1 | — | 1 |
| Total | 5 | 23 | 28 |

**Police Service of Northern Ireland: Sick Leave**

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland *(a)* regular and *(b)* full-time reserve officers were on paid sick leave caused by stress in each financial year from 2002-03. [168536]

**Paul Goggins:** The number of *(a)* regular and *(b)* full-time reserve officers who were absent on grounds of stress (work related and non work related) during the years for which figures are requested is detailed in the following table.

| | *Regular officers* | *Full-time reserve officers* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 377 | 156 |
| 2003-04 | 337 | 138 |
| 2004-05 | 322 | 91 |
| 2005-06 | 268 | 33 |
| 2006-07 | 282 | 22 |

The figures include all officers who took paid and unpaid sick leave at any time in each year. The number of officers absent and unpaid varies over the course of a year.

**Police Service of Northern Ireland: Training**

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will break down the numbers of Police Service of Northern Ireland trainees by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* community background. [170486]

**Paul Goggins:** I am advised by PSNI that, as of 28 November 2007, the breakdown of the 206 police trainees is as follows:

| *Age bands* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| 18 to 20 | 14 |
| 21 to 25 | 69 |
| 26 to 30 | 63 |
| 31 to 35 | 33 |
| 36 to 40 | 19 |
| 41 to 45 | 6 |
| 46 to 47 | 2 |
| *Gender* | |
| Male | 136 |
| Female | 70 |
| *Community background* | |
| Protestant | 97 |
| Catholic | 107 |
| Not determined | 2 |

**Prisoners Transfers**

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Northern Ireland prisoners were transferred to prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 12 months. [170458]

**Paul Goggins:** There have been no Northern Ireland prisoners transferred to prisons in England and Wales in the last 12 months.

**Prisons: Mobile Phones**

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many mobile telephones were seized in prisons in Northern Ireland in each of the last 12 months. [170456]

**Paul Goggins:** The following table sets out the number of mobile phones found in Northern Ireland prisons in each of the last 12 months.

| | *Maghaberry* | *Magilligan* | *Hydebank* |
|---|---|---|---|
| December 2006 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| January 2007 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| February 2007 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| March 2007 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| April 2007 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| May 2007 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| June 2007 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| July 2007 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| August 2007 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

| | Maghaberry | Magilligan | Hydebank |
|---|---|---|---|
| September 2007 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| October 2007 | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| November 2007 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Total | 28 | 41 | 2 |

### Terrorism

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons have been *(a)* questioned about and *(b)* charged with the bomb scare in Enniskillen and the planting of a device which ignited a canon at Newry War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, 11 November; and if he will make a statement. [170497]

**Paul Goggins:** PSNI has advised that 18 people have been interviewed as witnesses in connection with the bomb scare in Enniskillen. PSNI investigations are continuing but to date no arrests or charges have been made in connection with either incident.

These mindless and despicable acts have no place in our society and those responsible need to know that they will not deter us from achieving long-term political stability.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Children in Care

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children are in care outside their home local authority area. [169790]

**Kevin Brennan:** The number of children looked after by local authorities in England, who were placed outside the area of their local authority was 20,200 at 31 March 2006. This represented 33 per cent. (60,300) of all children looked after at 31 March 2006. Table 22 of the statistical volume entitled Children Looked After by Local Authorities Year Ending 31 March 2006 is accessible at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DBA/OL/v000721/Addition1.xls

### Children in Care: Standards

**Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* private and *(b)* local authority children's homes have been deregistered in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of the total number of children's homes such deregistrations represented in each year. [171554]

**Kevin Brennan:** Information on the number of private children's homes that have been deregistered in each of the last 10 years is not held centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

Information on the number of local authority children's homes that have been deregistered in each of the last 10 years can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

## WOMEN AND EQUALITY

### Equal Pay

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether an equal pay audit *(a)* has been conducted and *(b)* is planned for the Government Equalities Office. [170586]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* No equal pay audit has been conducted since the Government Equalities Office was announced by the Prime Minister on 26 July 2007 and set up as a stand alone Department on 12 October 2007. As a matter of good practice, the Office would plan to conduct an equal pay audit, but no timetable has been set for this as yet.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164919]

**David Cairns:** No staff in the Scotland Office are directly employed to support special advisers. The office costs of special advisers are not separately recorded.

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Office in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [168695]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The Office does not directly employ staff and does not second staff to other organisations. All staff in the Office are on loan from other Government Departments, such as the Scottish Executive and Ministry of Justice. Information on staff numbers is published in the Office's Annual Report, a copy of which is in the House Library. The Office does not keep central records in a form that would allow the cost of each loan to be identified.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171327]

**David Cairns:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation, are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Leader of the House on how many occasions she has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171304]

**Ms Harman:** In the last 12 months, neither my right hon. Friend the then Leader of the House until 28 June 2007 (Mr. Straw) nor I (Leader of the House of Commons since then) have received corporate hospitality that has not already been declared in the Register of Members' Interests.

### Departmental Public Participation

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Leader of the House how many responses were received to the Government's consultation on the Draft Legislative Programme for 2007-08; and from whom. [171452]

**Helen Goodman:** The consultation on the draft legislative programme was made up of a number of events and activities which included the publication of the Draft Legislative Programme on the Cabinet Office and Leader of the House of Commons' website. 106 responses were received in writing or by email. We are currently checking with these respondents that they are happy for their responses and names to be released into the public domain. Once this process has completed we will place a copy in the Library.

The Leader of the House of Commons published "The Government's Legislative Programme—Taking a wider view" on 14 November 2007 which summarised the activity that had taken place this year.

### Ministerial Duties

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Leader of the House what proportion of her average working week is allocated to her role as *(a)* Leader of the House, *(b)* Minister for Women and Equalities and *(c)* Lord Privy Seal; what responsibilities she has as Minister for Women and Equalities; and what mechanisms are in place for liaison with the Minister for Disabled People. [171355]

**Ms Harman:** There is no such thing as an average working week.

As with any Minister who has a broad portfolio I prioritise my work accordingly.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Asylum: Christianity

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what methods are used to verify claims by asylum seekers that they are Christian. [167025]

**Jacqui Smith:** All asylum applications, including those which are based either in part or wholly on the applicant being a Christian, are considered very carefully on their individual merits and with regard to objective country specific information. The primary method of gathering and testing the information which forms the basis of a person's asylum application is the asylum interview conducted by a case owner. Case owners, who also take initial asylum decisions, receive detailed training and instructions on all aspects of the asylum process including interviewing and assessing claims which are based on religious or other grounds. Refused applicants have access to an independent appeal process.

### Crime: Foreigners

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* asylum seekers jailed for major criminal offences are in immigration and removal centres (IRCs); how long each has been in an IRC; and if she will make a statement. [167027]

**Jacqui Smith:** The information requested can be obtained through the detailed examination of individual case files only at a disproportionate cost. The Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote a letter to the Home Affairs Committee on 20 November in which she gave the most accurate and robust information available on foreign national prisoners. A copy of this letter is available in the House Library.

### Crimes of Violence

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have had with the Metropolitan police on proposals for police officers to meet identified gang members to discuss levels of gang-related violence; and if she will make a statement. [169483]

**Mr. Coaker:** The Home Office is working closely with the Metropolitan police and local partners in the Five Borough Alliance who are taking forward a range of action as part of the Tackling Gangs Action Programme.

This work may include a pilot informed, among other elements, by an operating model established in Boston, under which members of a local community, supported by the police and local authorities, are given the opportunity to make it clear to gang members that violence will not be tolerated. This is then backed up by support for those wishing to exit gangs, and robust enforcement should any further violence occur. In Boston the model took some 18 months to put together, and it is considered critical that all the relevant elements are fully in place before the London model is launched, in order to ensure its effectiveness.

The London Guns, Gangs and Weapons Reduction Board will be developing this model in partnership with the community.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to support parents in challenging the behaviour of their children who are gang members or at risk of becoming gang members; and how much her Department has committed to such initiatives in the last 12 months. [169487]

**Mr. Coaker:** We are working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) on the roll-out of the accelerated extended schools programme, which includes work on supporting parents in a number of areas, including schools in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool, where the Tackling Gangs Action Programme is operating.

We are also developing guidance for parents and young people to provide advice on gang-related issues, and we are working with DCSF on guidance for schools.

In addition, through the Connected Fund, we support community groups which work with young people at risk of involvement in gangs and criminal activity. The fund was set up in May 2004 and provides small grants to local community groups working on tackling gun and knife crime and gangs issues. A number of the projects supported by the fund provide support to parents and young people who are at risk of gang membership. Under round six of the Connected Fund we awarded £500,000 to 100 community groups.

### Deportation: Iran

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will reconsider her policy of returning individuals to Iran. [167030]

**Jacqui Smith:** The Border and Immigration Agency only enforces the return of Iranian nationals where we are satisfied they are not in need of protection in accordance with our obligations under the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

### Domestic Violence

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many community domestic violence programmes there are for the treatment of violent women; [170578]

(2) how many community domestic violence programmes have been implemented nationally; [170579]

(3) how many integrated domestic violence abuse programmes there are for the treatment of violent women; [170580]

(4) how many integrated domestic violence abuse programmes have been implemented nationally. [170581]

**Mr. Hanson:** I have been asked to reply.

There are two domestic violence programmes that have been accredited for use with offenders in the community: the Community Domestic Violence programme (CDVP) (available in eight probation areas) and the Integrated Domestic Abuse programme (IDAP) (available in 34 probation areas). Both programmes are for male offenders only. Women may attend the accredited community programme aggression replacement training (ART), which is a mixed gender programme aimed at violent offenders or they may take part in individual work.

### Domestic Violence: Counselling

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many accredited independent domestic violence advisers are male. [170582]

**Mr. Coaker:** The organisation Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) has developed and delivers the accredited training for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs). CAADA have informed the Home Office that three men have received the accredited training.

**Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many independent domestic violence advisers have been trained and accredited; and who trained them. [170583]

**Mr. Coaker:** Accredited advocacy training for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) is carried out by the organisation Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA). The Home Office has funded places on this training course for IDVAs working in services supporting the 64 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts.

Up until August 2007, CAADA had trained a total of 111 Home Office-funded advocates (both IDVAs and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors), with a further 94 places funded for the remainder of 2007-08.

### Human Trafficking

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list each legislative measure the UK needs to take to ensure it is ready to ratify the European Convention on Action against trafficking in Human Beings; and how many of those measures are contained in the Bills scheduled for the 2007-08 Session. [169283]

**Mr. Coaker:** We judge that domestic legislation is already largely compliant with the Convention. Victims of trafficking can already be identified, supported and where appropriate, may be issued with limited or indefinite leave to remain in the UK. But to ratify the Convention some legislative changes will be necessary. The detail of these is still subject to discussion within government but we will ratify the Convention as soon as we can.

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which requirements of the European Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings require amendments to UK *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation; when the Government plans to bring forward such amendments; and if she will make a statement. [169562]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* We consider existing domestic legislation to be largely compliant with the Convention. Victims of trafficking are already being identified, supported and where appropriate may be issued with limited or indefinite leave to remain in the UK. However, we have identified a need for limited amendments to legislation and procedures, including the mechanisms for the support of victims of trafficking. The detail of the legislative

changes required is still subject to discussion within government but we will ratify the Convention as soon as we can.

### Sexual Offences: Children

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken by her Department to tackle child sexual exploitation. [167548]

**Mr. Coaker:** On 13 June 2007 we published the Review of the Protection of Children from Sex Offenders. This contains a number of actions which will enhance child protection, including by improving the management of sex offenders in the community.

On 27 November 2006 we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of Ireland on the exchange of information on convicted sex offenders travelling between the two countries.

We established the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre in April last year, and provided it with a budget of over £4 million this year. We have introduced a range of new offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which protect children from sexual exploitation. These include: paying for the sexual services of a child; causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography; arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography; and controlling a child prostitute. All of these offences have a maximum penalty of 14 years' imprisonment.

In January 2006 we published a Co-ordinated Prostitution Strategy, which includes specific measures to prevent child sexual exploitation, and to support and protect those who have been sexually exploited. The strategy includes a commitment to update guidance on safeguarding children who have been sexually exploited, which will also encourage effective investigation and prosecution of criminal activities by those who coerce or abuse children in this way.

In October 2006 the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre was established. Its role is to co-ordinate and provide expertise in developing a multi-agency response to human trafficking, including the trafficking of children for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

On 23 March 2007 the Home Office published the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking, which includes a chapter specifically addressing the trafficking of children. On the same day the Home Secretary signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings.

On 3 October 2007 the Home Secretary launched Operation Pentameter 2. This is a UK-wide police operation which aims to rescue and protect victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, and to identify, disrupt, arrest and bring to justice those involved in criminal activity.

### Tackling Gangs Action Programme

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the membership of the Tackling Gangs Action Programme is; and what terms of reference have been given to the unit. [169485]

**Mr. Coaker:** Deputy chief constable Jon Murphy (seconded from the Association of Chief Police Officers) leads the Tackling Gangs Action Programme team.

There are full-time members of the team from the following organisations:

Home Office (nine people),

Serious Organised Crime Agency,

HM Revenue and Customs (two people),

Merseyside Police,

Government Office for London,

Department for Communities and Local Government.

There are part-time members from the following organisations:

Liverpool City Council,

Manchester City Council,

Birmingham City Council,

Government Office for London

Government Office for the North West,

Department for Children, Schools and Families,

Office for Criminal Justice Reform,

Prime Minister's Strategy Unit.

The terms of reference for the programme are as follows:

1. The Tackling Gangs Action Programme (TGAP) has been set up to build on existing work to reduce serious violence, particularly the use of firearms, perpetrated by young people as part of gang-related activity;

£1 million funding for short-term operations and initiatives in the four cities chosen as a focus (Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham and London);

Build a coherent picture of the wide range of activity in this field and use this to:

produce a best practice guide to inform local delivery, and

inform national policy making across Government;

Produce an agreed action plan that will improve multi-agency work to address the supply and importation of illegal firearms; and

Put in place arrangements to ensure that momentum and cross-Government oversight are maintained following the dissolution of the team, through the implementation and monitoring of national strategies.

2. The programme's scope is primarily the use of firearms to commit violent crime by young people as part of gang-related activity, specifically within the four cities. Knife and other violent crime will not be considered other than where it involves gang activities in the four areas. Gangs in this context should be interpreted as street gangs, not peer groups or organised crime networks.

3. The programme will be delivered in partnership with colleagues in the Home Office Violent Crime Unit and a range of stakeholders. The programme will not address issues outside of its scope. However, it may flag up important issues outside its remit to the sponsoring board member, Moira Wallace (Director General, Crime Reduction and Community Safety), who may then ask the relevant business area to consider them.

4. The programme will report to the sponsoring board member, Moira Wallace, and the senior responsible officer, Vanessa Nicholls (Director, Crime and Drugs Strategy), weekly.

5. The Home Secretary will report to the Prime Minister on the progress of the programme, copied to members of the ministerial task force.

6. Decisions on the direction of the programme will be taken by the Home Secretary, Permanent Secretary and sponsoring board member (in that order). Contributions from interested parties will be treated as advice/recommendations.

7. The programme leader, DCC Jon Murphy, is responsible for the day-to-day delivery of the programme's objectives.

8. The sponsoring board member, Moira Wallace, has overall responsibility for programme delivery.

9. The violent crime unit, led by Simon King, has responsibility for ensuring that the programme team is aware of relevant ongoing activity on violent crime, and will work in close partnership with the programme team to ensure that the outcome of the programme's work is jointly owned. The violent crime unit remains responsible for the policy in this area.

10. The programme leader, DCC Jon Murphy, and the head of violent crime unit, Simon King, will be jointly responsible for ensuring the integration of the team's work into the violent crime unit's ongoing work when the programme team is dissolved.

11. The sponsoring board member is responsible for ensuring: that resources (including staff) are available for the programme team; that information is accessible; and that decisions are made when necessary.

12. The Permanent Secretary has authorised the deployment of the priority support team (PST) to work on the programme. The PST's role should be jointly agreed by the programme leader and the head of the delivery unit.

## DEFENCE

### Armed Forces: Deployment

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel were deployed on operations at the most recent date for which figures are available, broken down by location. [169457]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The number of UK personnel deployed on operations by location at 19 November 2007 is shown in the following table. The number of UK service personnel deployed on operations fluctuates on a daily basis for a number of reasons including: leave (rest and recuperation); temporary absence from theatre for training; evacuation from theatre for medical reasons; or the roulement of forces.

*Number of personnel deployed by location*[1]

| *Location* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *Of which:* | |
| Afghanistan | 7,470 |
| Iraq | 4,910 |
| At sea | 790 |
| Qatar | 410 |
| Cyprus | 290 |
| Kuwait | 270 |
| Oman | 250 |
| Kosovo | 140 |
| Bahrain | 60 |
| Bosnia | 20 |
| Other | 50 |
| Total | 14,670 |

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

### Australia: Peacekeeping Operations

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK's defence policy of the Australian Prime Minister's stated intention to withdraw Australian troops from Iraq. [169931]

**Des Browne:** The Australian Government gave an election commitment to withdraw combat forces from Iraq and to consult with the Iraqi, US, and UK Governments. There is no reason why withdrawal of such forces will have an effect on the UK's defence policy.

### Departmental Cost Effectiveness

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's head office streamlining consultation document. [169354]

**Des Browne:** Yes. A copy of the head office streamlining consultation document has been placed in the Library of the House.

### Iraq

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-25, on Iraq, what progress has been made in relocating the 500 logistics personnel; and if he will make a statement. [169575]

**Des Browne:** Although the exact number of personnel in the regional support facility will fluctuate daily, there are now around 500 posts established. The vast majority of these are logistics posts, with the rest a combination of helicopter crew and support, medics and permanent staff. Work continues to develop the facility to meet our operational requirements.

### Iraq: Detainees

**Mr. Tyrie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any individuals captured by British forces during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have at any subsequent time been held at the United States detention facility at Guantánamo Bay. [169051]

**Des Browne** *[holding answer 28 November 2007]:* When we transfer captured individuals into the custody of the United States and the Iraqi authorities in Iraq, and into the custody of the Afghan authorities in Afghanistan, we have an understanding with the

relevant Government that the transferred individual cannot be removed from the country without our agreement. We have at no time given our consent for any individual to be transferred to the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay.

### Military Aircraft: Helicopters

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* in-service and *(b)* out-of-service dates are of all helicopters in service with the (i) Army, (ii) Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force. [168905]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The current in-service dates (ISDs) and the current planning assumptions for out-of-service dates (OSDs) for all military helicopters are listed as follows:

| | *ISDs* | *Current planned OSDs* |
|---|---|---|
| *Army* | | |
| Agusta 109A | 1983 | 2009 |
| Agusta 109AM | 1984 | 2009 |
| Apache AH Mkl | 2001 | 2030 |
| Gazelle AH1 | 1973 | 2018 |
| Lynx Mk 7 | 1988 | 2013 |
| Lynx Mk 9 | 1991 | 2013 |
| *Royal Navy* | | |
| Lynx Mk3 | 1986 | 2013 |
| Lynx Mk8 | 1994 | 2015 |
| Merlin Mkl | 1999 | 2029 |
| Sea King Mk4 | 1979 | 2012 |
| Sea King Mk5 | 1980 | 2017 |
| Sea King Mk6(CR) | 2004 | 2008 |
| Sea King Mk7 | 2002 | 2018 |
| *Royal Air Force* | | |
| Chinook Mk2 | 1993 | 2015 |
| Chinook Mk2a | 1999 | 2025 |
| Merlin Mk3 | 2000 | 2030 |
| Puma HCl | 1971 | 2012 |
| Sea King Mk3 | 1978 | 2017 |
| Sea King Mk3a | 1996 | 2017 |

The table does not include the commercially owned helicopters that the Department leases on contract.

### Territorial Army: Manpower

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 901W, on Territorial Army: manpower, what records of the components of the Territorial Army liability figures are maintained by his Department, with particular reference to the numbers of liable former *(a)* lieutenants and *(b)* second lieutenants; and how many of the strength figure are (i) officer training corps and (ii) privates. [170256]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** On discharge or retirement there is no reserve liability for members of the Territorial Army, but a Territorial Army officer may volunteer to become a member of the Regular Reserve. The reserve liability for volunteers is recorded on their individual service record which is held on the Joint Personnel Administration system.

Pursuant to my answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 901W; the strengths of the Officer Training Corps and Territorial Army private soldiers as at 1 March 2007 were 5,060 and 19,060 respectively.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what mechanisms his Department has in place to ensure that databases containing personal information on members of the general public are not accessed *(a)* by unauthorised staff and *(b)* by authorised staff for unauthorised purposes; [168970]

(2) how many staff of each grade in his Department have access to electronic databases which contain personal information on members of the general public; [168974]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171426]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report,* column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171545]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport pays end of year bonus payments as part of our performance pay system. Information relating to bonus payments in the last five years is contained in the table. The final figures for 2006-07 are not yet available. Our agency, the Royal Parks does not pay end of year bonus payments.

*Total value of performance bonuses*

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 50,576 |
| 2002-03 | 106,128 |
| 2003-04 | 164,603 |
| 2004-05 | 177,104 |
| 2005-06 | 239,805 |

### Football: Teachers

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many qualified football coaches are active in *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls football in each UK region. [170105]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** We do not hold this information. However, I can confirm that DCMS and Sport England are currently funding nearly 250 football Community Sports Coach (CSC) posts, broken down by region as follows:

| *Region* | *Number of football CSCs* |
|---|---|
| East | 35 |
| East Midlands | 4 |
| London | 80 |
| North East | 7 |
| North West | 23 |
| South East | 19 |
| South West | 33 |
| West Midlands | 28 |
| Yorkshire | 9 |
| Total | 238 |

The Football Association are responsible for the training and development of their coaches. They advise that almost 147,000 people have passed coach education courses in levels 1, 2 and 3 since 2004, many of whom will be active either as paid or volunteer coaches.

## Leisure

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of people who regularly undertook *(a)* recreational walking, *(b)* recreational cycling and *(c)* yoga in each of the last five years. [171675]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** This level of detail on participation in these sports is not available. However, the following data are available.

The General Household Survey collected sport and physical activity participation data in 2002 for adults aged 16 and over. The survey measured "activity in at least one sport, game or physical activity in the four weeks before interview".

| | *Percentage* | *Population (number)* |
|---|---|---|
| Recreational Walking | 34.9 | 13,690,431 |
| Recreational Cycling | 9.0 | 3,530,484 |

There was no equivalent figure for yoga in 2002 as it was combined with other keep fit activities.

Since 2005, the DCMS Taking Part survey has collected sport and physical activity participation data for adults aged 16 and over.

The definition of 'regularly' in this case is at least one occasion in the four weeks before interview. The data relate to all adults in 2005-06. Population figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand. The Taking Part survey did not disaggregate recreational cycling from other forms of cycling. Therefore the following figures are for all forms of cycling.

| | *Percentage* | *Population (number)* |
|---|---|---|
| Walking (health, recreation or rambling) | 52.4 | 20,792,000 |
| Cycling (health, recreation, training or competition) | 9.7 | 3,861,000 |
| Yoga | 2.5 | 1,006,000 |

## Newspaper Press: Complaints

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to establish a body to investigate complaints about the press with the power *(a)* of subpoena and *(b)* to make a binding ruling where facts are in dispute; and if he will make a statement. [171102]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Government strongly support freedom of speech and a free press. It is therefore appropriate that there should be a system of self-regulation. We are generally satisfied that the Press Complaints Commission's code of practice is both adequate and appropriate for its purpose. We therefore have no intention of bringing forward any new proposals.

## Overseas Visitors

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many visitors came to the UK from *(a)* China, *(b)* India, *(c)* America, *(d)* Australia and *(e)* Europe in each of the last five years. [171674]

**Margaret Hodge:** The information requested is contained in the table.

*Number of visits to the UK by overseas residents 2002-06*

*Visits (Thousand)*

| | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *2006* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| China (incl. Hong Kong) | 261 | 237 | 284 | 277 | 296 |
| India | 205 | 199 | 255 | 272 | 367 |
| America | 4,511 | 4,244 | 4,585 | 4,491 | 5,061 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Canada | 660 | 652 | 740 | 796 | 868 |
| USA | 3,611 | 3,346 | 3,616 | 3,438 | 3,896 |
| Mexico | 71 | 76 | 67 | 78 | 88 |
| *Of which:* | | | | | |
| Other Central and South America | 169 | 170 | 162 | 179 | 209 |
| Australia | 702 | 723 | 787 | 919 | 956 |
| Europe | 16,217 | 17,207 | 19,424 | 21,565 | 23,377 |

*Source:*
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

## Postal Services

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many items of post sent by his Department were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997. [171296]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Sports: School Leavers

**Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 550-1W, on sports: school leavers, what percentage of people aged *(a)* 11 to 15, *(b)* 16, *(c)* 17 to 18 and *(d)* 19 years and over participated in sport in each year since 1997. [168989]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** This level of detail on sports participation is not available.

Before 2005, the general household survey collected sport participation data in 2002 for adults aged 16 and over.

The survey measured "activity in at least one sport, game or physical activity in the four weeks before interview".

| *Age* | *2002 percentage* |
|---|---|
| 16-19 | 72 |
| All adults (16+) | 43 |

Since 2005, the DCMS Taking Part survey has collected sport participation data broken down by age, from 11 and over.

The previous answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 550-51W, contains participation data for the age groups in question, collected in 2005-6.

### Union Flag

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the comments of the Minister of State on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 121, on the Union Flag, when the Government plan to make a decision on the re-design of the Union Flag under consideration. [171727]

**Margaret Hodge:** The Government are currently reviewing the rules on flying the Union Flag on Government buildings. As part of that review, a public consultation has been carried out and there have been some comments on the design of the flag along with a number of other points that were outside the scope of the consultation.

All views will be considered as part of the consultation although there are no plans to change the design at present.

### Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171338]

**Margaret Hodge:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Young People

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff aged between 16 and 18 were employed by his Department *(a)* directly and *(b)* through an employment agency in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these were given time off work to undertake some form of training; and what proportion were provided with some form of training (i) wholly and (ii) partially funded by his Department. [171281]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has employed only one person aged between 16 and 18 years of age during the last 10 years. During that person's employment they received 8.5 days training which was fully funded by the Department. No information is held on the age of staff employed through employment agencies.

## TRANSPORT

### Chiltern Railways: Greater London

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* Transport for London and *(b)* the Mayor of London's office made any approach to her to take responsibility for the routes into Marylebone operated by Chiltern Railways; and if she will make a statement. [170337]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** There are no records of an approach by either *(a)* Transport for London or *(b)* the Mayor of London's office requesting a change in responsibilities for Chiltern Railways routes into London Marylebone.

### Crossrail Line: Finance

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which businesses she expects to contribute more than *(a)* £1 million, *(b)* £2 million, *(c)* £5 million, *(d)* £10 million, *(e)* £50 million and *(f)* £100 million towards Crossrail, broken down by (i) direct contributions and (ii) contributions through the supplementary business rate. [165491]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by the Secretary of State on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 4-5WS. Contributions raised from any Crossrail-related supplementary business rate are a matter for the Mayor of London.

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial contribution BAA is making to Crossrail. [165493]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by the Secretary of State on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 4-5WS. Discussions with BAA on the size of its contribution to Crossrail are ongoing.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in her Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163695]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The number of staff in the Department who were disciplined or dismissed for poor sick record is shown in the following table. However, the number disciplined excludes GCDA and DfT(C) because the Department does not routinely collate disciplinary information in the format requested and this could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

*Number*

| | *Staff disciplined for sick record* | *Staff dismissed for poor sick record* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003 | 108 | 10 |
| 2004 | 153 | 7 |
| 2005 | 156 | 45 |
| 2006 | 176 | 70 |
| 2007 | 111 | 40 |

### East Coast Railway Line: Repairs and Maintenance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable for improvements to the East Coast mainline has been agreed as part of the new franchise. [171044]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The new franchise, awarded to National Express Group, will commence on 9 December this year. The timetable that it will inherit from that date will be the same as that currently operating with two additional Sunday services.

Provision has been made within the franchise for National Express East Coast to run additional services to reflect the emerging recommendations from Network Rail's East Coast Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS). The anticipated date for implementing the RUS recommendations is expected to be December 2010.

### M6

**Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Written Statement of 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 20WS, on active traffic management, what factors determine the length of time for completion of the improvement of the M6 around Birmingham and the M6 Toll; and if she will make an assessment of the feasibility of completing the scheme before summer 2011. [170631]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The main construction phase of the scheme announced on 25 October to implement the Active Traffic Management (ATM) techniques on the motorway box around Birmingham (parts of the M6, M40 and M42) is due to start next summer and complete in summer 2011. An invitation for expressions of interest from contractors was published shortly after the announcement of the scheme, allowing for tenders in the spring. The anticipated schedule to completion reflects knowledge and experience gained from the delivery of the M42 ATM scheme, including the identification of potential efficiencies. Appropriate contractual incentives will be put in place to support effective delivery.

### Motor Vehicles: Licensing

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue was raised through fines issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency due to the failure of registered keepers of cars to notify them of changes in car ownership in each of the last three years. [169402]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Revenue collected through fines issued for failure to notify disposal or acquisition of a vehicle is as follows:

*£ million*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2004-05 | 1.1 |
| 2005-06 | 1.1 |
| 2006-07 | 0.9 |

Revenue collected includes fine income, court costs recovered and out of court settlements.

### Public Transport: Innovation

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make an assessment of the use of upright electric personal transporters in other countries. [171114]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** No. The Department has however invited the company marketing such machines to share with us any research carried out into the use of these vehicles.

### Railway Network: Greater London

**Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to transfer the running of any of the current rail franchises to Transport for London or the Mayor of London; and if she will make a statement. [170338]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Secretary of State has no plans to transfer the running of current franchises to Transport for London (TfL). The Department for Transport has been in discussion with TfL regarding issues that they would like to see addressed in the London part of the South Central franchise replacement process.

### Railways: Tickets

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what charges were levied on outlets currently acting as retailers for rail tickets, excluding online and telesales services and those located on railway station premises in each year since 1997; [170525]

(2) how many outlets act as retailers for rail tickets, excluding online and telesales services and those located on railway station premises. [170798]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department for Transport does not hold this information as the retailers in question operate under licence issued by the Association of Train Operating Companies.

### Renewable Transport Fuels

**Chris Huhne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of the Government's renewable transport fuels obligation will come from exported sources by 2010; and what estimate she has made of the percentage of these fuels which will come from sustainable sources. [169937]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) will create a demand for some 2.5 billion litres per annum of biofuel by 2010-11. This demand is likely to be met through a mixture of domestically produced and imported biofuels. The Government do not have a precise estimate of the likely split between the two. In theory, and provided a number of large UK biofuel production plants which are currently at the planning stage come on stream by 2010, UK farmers and producers could produce enough biofuel to meet this demand in full. Whether or not they do depends on a wide range of factors including the relative costs of UK-produced and imported biofuels.

From day one of the RTFO in April 2008, transport fuel suppliers will be required to report on the sustainability of their biofuels in order to earn any certificates in respect of them. This will create an incentive for suppliers to source only those biofuels which deliver genuine environmental benefits.

### Roads: Accidents

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there have been on the A14 in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [170135]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is given in the following table:

*Number of reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities on the A14 in Suffolk, 1997 to 2006*

| | (a) Accidents | (b) Fatalities |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 128 | 7 |
| 1998 | 123 | 2 |
| 1999 | 122 | 8 |
| 2000 | 138 | 8 |
| 2001 | 138 | 10 |
| 2002 | 157 | 5 |
| 2003 | 128 | 3 |
| 2004 | 143 | 5 |
| 2005 | 150 | 4 |
| 2006 | 119 | 6 |

**Mr. Ruffley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there have been on the A143 in (i) Suffolk and (ii) Great Barton; and how many involved drivers under the age of 21 years in each category since 1997. [170136]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The information requested is given in the following tables:

*Number of reported personal injury road accidents and resulting fatalities on the A143 in Suffolk, 1997 to 2006*

| | All accidents | | Accidents involving drivers/riders aged under 21 years | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of accidents | Resulting fatalities | Number of accidents | Resulting fatalities |
| 1997 | 71 | 3 | 21 | 1 |
| 1998 | 62 | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| 1999 | 71 | 6 | 16 | 2 |
| 2000 | 59 | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| 2001 | 61 | 2 | 22 | 0 |
| 2002 | 83 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 2003 | 72 | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| 2004 | 70 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 2005 | 82 | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| 2006 | 68 | 1 | 14 | 0 |

*Number of reported personal injury road accidents and resulting fatalities on the A143 in Great Barton[1], 1997 to 2006*

| | All accidents | | Accidents involving drivers/riders aged under 21 years | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of accidents | Resulting fatalities | Number of accidents | Resulting fatalities |
| 1997 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 1998 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 1999 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2000 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2002 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 2003 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2005 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

1 Between junction with Fornham road and the junction with Mill road (B1106)

### Transport: Finance

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much was spent on transport in each of the UK regions in each of the last five years; [163241]

(2) how much was budgeted for transport in each of the UK regions in each of the last five years; [163242]

(3) how much was budgeted for major transport developments in each of the UK regions in each of the last five years. [163471]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** An analysis of identifiable UK current and capital expenditure on transport by country and region from 2001-02 to 2006-07 is published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2007, Cm 7091, in tables 9.5a to 9.10b. The information is also available electronically on the Treasury website at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

The Department's planned and outturn identifiable expenditure on services by country and region (excluding spending by local government) is shown in the Department's successive annual reports, analysed according to the country or region for whose benefit the expenditure has been, or is expected to be, incurred. The most recent is in table A7 of the annual report 2007, Cm 7095. The information is also available electronically on the Department's website at www.dft.gov.uk

### Travel

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely change in the number of journeys made by *(a)* car, *(b)* train, *(c)* bus and *(d)* aircraft in each of the next 10 years. [169250]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** Recent road traffic forecasts by the Department are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/roadpricing/research trafficongestion

Rail forecasts were published alongside the White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway, at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/white papercm7176/

A range of documents are available specifically about the forecasts at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/white papercm7176/railwhitepaperresearch

The latest departmental aviation forecasts are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukair demandandco2forecasts

### Travel: Concessions

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions she has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the funding of the nationwide pensioner travel concessionary scheme in 2008; and if she will make a statement; [169513]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost to local authorities of introducing the nationwide pensioner concessionary travel scheme in 2008. [169514]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* From 1 April 2008, people aged 60 and over and eligible disabled people in England will be entitled to free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England, not just within their local area as at present.

There have been various discussions between Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport, both at official and ministerial level. The Government are providing local authorities in England an extra £212 million/£217 million/£223 million for the next three years. This extra funding is based on generous assumptions about the probable cost impact of the new concession, including visitor 'hot spots'. We are confident this funding will be sufficient in aggregate.

The existing funding for concessionary fares is, and will continue to be, distributed by the Department for Communities and Local Government via the formula grant system. There was no significant support among local government to extract the existing funding for statutory concessions from the formula grant system.

The extra funding for the national bus concession will be distributed by the Department for Transport via a special grant. The decision to use a special grant reflects both the views of local government and the challenges of deriving a formula distribution that matches the probable cost impact of the new concession, taking into account popular tourist resorts and large transport hubs. We anticipate transferring this additional funding into the formula grant process at the beginning of the next three-year settlement period (2011-12).

The Department for Transport's consultation on the formula basis for the distribution of the special grant closed on 23 November. A provisional view on the distribution will be made in due course and will be finalised by a parliamentary debate in the new year.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Council Tax Benefit

**Dan Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to increase the take-up rate of council tax benefit. [168034]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I been asked to reply.

Council tax benefit (CTB) take-up is lowest among pensioners and they are therefore our priority. One phone call to the Pension Service can give customers access to four benefits—pension credit, state retirement pension, CTB and housing benefit (HB). A simple claim form for HB/CTB is completed for the customer. All they need to do is check it, sign it and send it back.

We are taking other measures to promote the take-up of CTB. There are annual awareness campaigns. We have provided local authorities with best practice guidance that contains information about barriers to claiming, ways of overcoming them, and case study examples of good practice to improve take-up. We have supported the simple claim form arrangements with computer scans run by the Pension Service to discover people getting pension credit but not CTB and this information is passed to local authorities. We encourage local authorities to do take-up activity through our performance standards and have awarded £2.2 million to 38 authorities to increase CTB take-up.

In the longer term, we want to deliver CTB as accessibly, simply and securely as possible. We want to research the feasibility of using data held "across Government" to build profiles of people likely to be entitled. We also want to develop the concept of a "single point of contact" for pensioners, coupled with alignment of application processes that will provide greater efficiency and a better public service.

### Anti-Semitism

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to treat anti-Semitic crimes as distinct from other crimes of racial hatred; what recent representations she has received on this matter; and if she will make a statement. [165736]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

The Government's work on hate crime seeks to address all forms of hate crime, whether it be on anti-Semitic grounds, on other racial or religious grounds, or on the grounds of sexual orientation, disability or gender identity. However, one of our priorities is to understand better the nature and extent of all hate crimes, and to this end we are currently in the process of changing the way we collect data on hate crime: from April 2007 we have asked the police to flag information about hate crimes, which should help us develop a more detailed picture.

We have also set up a cross-Government working group to develop our response to the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry Into Anti-Semitism.

### Business Premises: Fire Extinguishers

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration her Department has given to the merits of making sprinkler systems compulsory in new large business premises. [171564]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The recent review of the fire safety aspects in Part B of the Building Regulations considered fire safety in all types of premises and the important role that sprinklers and other types of fire protection measures may have. A number of changes were made, following extensive research and full public consultation. These changes came into force in April this year and were supported by a Regulatory Impact Assessment setting out the costs and benefits of the changes.

For a number of years, sprinklers have been asked for in a range of situations under the Building Regulations, such as the majority of tall (30 m+) buildings and buildings with large compartments (e.g. shops with a compartment over 2,000 $m^2$). The amended Part B gives greater recognition to the role of sprinklers for life safety and the accompanying guidance has been expanded, where justified, to include their use in a wider range of situations. These include in tall (30 m+) blocks of flats, certain care homes and in large single-storey storage buildings.

In addition, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which applies to both new and existing non-domestic buildings, requires that the responsible person for a premises carry out a risk assessment and take necessary fire precautions to ensure the safety of the occupants of the building. This could include the provision of sprinklers, where it is justified by the risk. It is also open for property owners and their insurers to consider the benefits of sprinklers for property protection and business continuity.

### Community Development

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's timetable is for implementing the recommendations of the Quirk Review. [170149]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* In May 2007, the Government accepted the recommendations of the Quirk Review and published "Opening the Transfer window: the Government's response to the Quirk Review of community management and ownership of public assets". This details specific actions to be taken with partners to take forward the implementation of the Review, and specifies a timetable to 2009. It also commits Communities and Local Government to a review in 2008, to consider what further action should be taken in the light of progress made.

### Contracts

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many invitations to tender her Department has issued in the last 12 months; and for what purpose in each case. [171684]

**Mr. Dhanda:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

### Council Housing: Waiting Lists

**Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were on council housing waiting lists in each *(a)* district/unitary housing authority and *(b)* region in England in each of the last five years. [170358]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 116W, to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher).

### Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which companies are under contract to her Department to provide mail services. [170162]

**Mr. Dhanda:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Norfolk (Mr. Fraser), on 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 986W.

### Departmental Computers

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168598]

**Mr. Dhanda:** 11 laptops, valued at approximately £800 each, were recorded as stolen in separate incidents in 2007. All laptop hard disks were encrypted to CESG standards, access to which would require extremely

sophisticated and expensive equipment not available to the general public. Two desktop computers were recovered after being taken off site without permission in 2007. This was not a malicious act; it was not classed as theft.

### Departmental Land

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what land surplus to her Department's requirements it is *(a)* selling, *(b)* leasing and *(c)* intending to (i) sell and (ii) lease; and what the size and name of each relevant site is. [168846]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Communities and Local Government does not have any surplus land it is selling or leasing and neither does it have any surplus land it is intending to sell or lease.

This response does not include land held by Government offices, who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments or other sponsored bodies.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what entertainment or hospitality members of the Department's management board received in each of the last three financial years; and if she will make a statement. [164748]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

### Departmental Publicity

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by her Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167961]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Figures for advertising and marketing campaigns in the financial year 2006-07 were published in the Department's Annual Report on 17 May 2007, which is available in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Sick Leave

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163708]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The central part of the Department for Communities and Local Government took no formal disciplinary action nor dismissed anyone as a result of poor sick records in the last five years to March 2007. Most sickness absence cases are managed informally by managers. This reply does not cover the Government offices or the Department's agencies.

### Departmental Sustainable Development

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department is on course to meet the commitment in the sustainable operations on the Government estate targets *(a)* to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [171058]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* Communities and Local Government has already exceeded both of these targets.

In 2006-07, the Department's HQ estate and its Executive agencies sourced 92 per cent. and 52 per cent. of their electricity from renewables respectively. This target is met by procuring renewable 'green tariff' electricity.

In the same year, the Department's HQ estate and Executive agencies recycled 57 per cent. and 56 per cent. of their waste, respectively.

*Note:*

These figures do not include the regional Government offices or the selected non-departmental public bodies that contribute to the Department's performance against these targets.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management programme. [171059]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* Communities and Local Government signed up to the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme in May 2006. The Department and its Executive agencies are in the process of implementing various recommendations identified through the programme.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department met the target in the sustainable operations on the Government estate review to reverse the then upward trend in carbon dioxide emissions by April 2007. [171060]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* Communities and Local Government's HQ estate has not met the target to reverse the upward trend in reported carbon emissions from offices by April 2007. Our office-based Executive agencies have met the target.

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system for its whole estate or some of its buildings. [171061]

**Mr. Dhanda** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* Communities and Local Government already has an ISO14001 accredited certified environmental management system which covers its main headquarter buildings, one of its Executive agencies and Government office for London's building. The remaining organisations that

contribute to the Department's sustainable operations performance are working towards accredited certified systems.

### Development Plans: Public Participation

**Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities' area action plans have been deemed *(a)* sound and *(b)* unsound by planning inspectors after public examination. [168952]

**Mr. Iain Wright** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The following local authorities have:

*(a) Had Area Action Plans found Sound (Approved)*

| *Local authority* | *Title* |
|---|---|
| South Cambridgeshire DC | Cambridge Southern Fringe AAP |
| South Cambridgeshire DC | Northstowe AAP |
| Newcastle Upon Tyne Council | Walker Riverside Area Action Plan DPD |
| Portsmouth Council | Southsea Town Centre Area Action Plan |
| Plymouth Council | Millbay/Stonehouse Area Action Plan |
| Plymouth Council | North Plymstock (including Minerals) AAP |
| Plymouth Council | Devonport Area Action Plan |
| South Hams DC | Sherford New Community Area Action Plan |
| Staffordshire Moorlands DC | AAP Biddulph Town Centre |
| Total | 9 |

*(b) Had Area Action Plans found Unsound (Refused)*

| *Local authority* | *Title* |
|---|---|
| Restormel BC | Newquay AAP |
| Total | 1 |

### Emergency Calls: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average time taken to respond to an emergency telephone call by the fire brigade was in Suffolk for each of the past five years. [171614]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The following table shows the average response times taken by the fire and rescue services in Suffolk between 2001 and 2005, the most recent calendar year for which data are available. The table shows the time from the initial call to attendance, and the time from mobilisation to attendance (i.e. the actual driving time).

*Average response time (in minutes) to fires by brigade area and year of call, Suffolk, 2001-05*[1, 2, 3]

| | *First call to attendance* | *Mobilisation to attendance* |
|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 8.8 | 7.7 |
| 2002 | 9.0 | 7.8 |
| 2003 | 9.3 | 8.2 |
| 2004 | 9.0 | 8.0 |
| 2005 | 9.5 | 8.3 |

[1] Excluding late call and heat and smoke damage only incidents.
[2] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
[3] A small number of incidents with response time greater than an hour have been excluded so that results are not skewed by likely reporting errors.

### Fires: Warwickshire

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the *(a)* investigations carried out and *(b)* lessons learned on the recent Warwickshire factory fire tragedy. [171565]

**Mr. Dhanda:** As a result of the tragic events of 2 November at Atherstone on Stour in Warwickshire, three key investigations have been initiated. Firstly, the police are conducting an investigation in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Secondly, the fire and rescue service are examining the origin, causes and spread of the fire. Thirdly, there is currently a fire and rescue service accident investigation into the implications of the fire. The chief fire and rescue adviser, Sir Ken Knight, is in close contact with the ongoing investigations and is keeping me informed at all times. In addition to these investigations, there will be a coroner's inquest which, as part of its investigation, will examine the evidence submitted by the investigation teams. However, until the exact details are known, it would be inappropriate to comment further on the investigations in progress.

### Green Belt

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the existing versions of the regional spatial strategies have to review the green belt designations in each Government office region. [171525]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The following summarises the proposals in the existing versions of the regional spatial strategies regarding the green belt in each Government office region:

*North East—proposed changes stage*

Policy 6.5 ensures that the green belt continues to safeguard the countryside from encroachment and check the unrestricted sprawl of Tyne and Wear.

*North West—currently preparing proposed changes*

Policy RDF5, no need for any exceptional change to the Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire and Lancashire green belts until 2011 and the Warrington green belt until 2021.

*Yorkshire and Humber—proposed changes published for consultation*

Policy YH9 confirms that the extent of the green belt in Yorkshire and Humber should not be changed, but that localised boundary reviews may be needed in order to deliver development in the most sustainable locations. Specific mention is made to defining the green belt around York and the potential need for strategic reviews in parts of West Yorkshire.

*East Midlands—currently preparing proposed changes*

The EIP into the East Midlands Draft RSS closed on 19 July 2007 and the EIP Chair's Panel Report was published 28 November 2007. The Independent Panel Chair recommended a strategic review of the boundaries of the existing green belt to the north, east and south of Nottingham. Any future review of the green belt will be conducted in line with the process set out in PPG2.

*West Midlands Phase 1—proposed changes published and Phase 2 is due to be submitted in December 2007*

Phase 1 proposes no change to the extent of the existing green belt in the Black Country and Phase 2 is still being developed, so policies on the extent of the existing green belt have not yet been defined.

*East of England—proposed changes published for consultation*

Policy SS7, the broad extent of green belts in the East of England is appropriate, and will be maintained. However, strategic reviews of green belt boundaries are needed in the following areas to meet regional development needs at the most sustainable locations:

Stevenage, involving land in Stevenage and North Hertfordshire;

Kernel Hempstead, involving land in Dacorum and probably St. Albans district;

Harlow, involving land in Harlow, East Hertfordshire and Epping Forest district; and

Welwyn/Hatfield, involving land in Welwyn Hatfield district and potentially St. Albans district;

Broxbourne.

*South East—currently preparing proposed changes*

Policy CC10a, the existing green belts in the region will be retained and supported and the opportunity should be taken to improve their land-use management and access as part of initiatives to improve the urban rural fringe. If there are any cases for small scale local review, these can be pursued through the LDF process.

*South West—awaiting panel report before beginning proposed changes process*

Policy 3.35, the extent of the green belt, is revised in policies SR3, SR11 and SR27 (Section 4), based on a strategic green belt review, to accommodate urban extensions required in the West of England in Cheltenham/Gloucester and South Dorset.

*London*

There are currently no green belt reviews planned in the London region.

## Housing Benefit: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on housing benefit in (a) Peterborough constituency and (b) Peterborough City Council area in each of the last 10 years. [168124]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I have been asked to reply

Information on housing benefit expenditure is not available at constituency level.

The available information is in the following table.

*Housing benefit expenditure for Peterborough local authority district*

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 31.7 |
| 1998-99 | 31.0 |
| 1999-2000 | 31.2 |
| 2000-01 | 31.6 |
| 2001-02 | 32.0 |
| 2002-03 | 33.3 |
| 2003-04 | 32.7 |
| 2004-05 | 32.3 |
| 2005-06 | 36.7 |
| 2006-07 | 40.0 |

*Notes*:
1. Information sourced from local authority claims for housing revenue account subsidy and housing benefit subsidy.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000.
3. Figures prior to 2006-07 are audited, but may change in future if local authorities' audited accounts are amended after a decision or appeal. Figures for recent years are more likely to be amended than older data.
4. 2006-07 figures are initial final (pre-audited) and are subject to change.
5. From 1999-2000 onwards, housing benefit expenditure on asylum seekers was funded by the National Asylum Support Service, and is therefore excluded from the figures presented at Great Britain. However, local authority level information includes all expenditure on these benefits relating to asylum seekers, as it is not possible to isolate at this level that part which applies to asylum seekers.
6. Figures relate to what local authorities spend on claimants, and include discretionary expenditure (mainly disregards of war pensions), and overpayments except where benefit has been granted in advance (where the benefit is paid in the form of a rebate).

*Source*:
DWP Benefit expenditure tables

DWP housing benefit and council tax benefit expenditure tables are available online at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/HBandCTB_expenditure.asp

## Housing: Expenditure

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on housing *(a)* in 2007 prices and *(b)* as a percentage of gross national product in each year since 1980; and what percentage of each year's total was spent on (i) owner-occupied housing, (ii) registered social landlord/housing corporation housing and (iii) council housing. [164667]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, directed at the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. You requested the amount spent on housing (a) in 2007 prices and (b) as a percentage of gross national product in each year since 1980, and what percentage of each year's total was spent on (i) owned-occupied housing, (ii) registered social landlord/housing corporation housing and (iii) council housing.

Table A shows investment in housing, defined by total dwellings (excluding land) as a percentage of total gross national income (formerly called gloss national product).

Table B gives the percentage breakdown of total dwellings by the following three sectors:

i) households and NPISH (Non Profit Institutions Serving Households)—investment on dwellings by the household sector and non profit institutions serving households (or the charity sector);

ii) central government—investment on dwellings by the central government sector; and

iii) public non-financial corporations—broadly representing investment on dwellings by local authorities via the Housing Revenue Account.

These provide the nearest definitions available to the breakdown requested. Information is not available for registered social landlord/housing corporation housing.

Note that all the data shown is in current prices, although constant price data at 2003 prices is available on request.

*Table A: Investment in housing and gross national income*

£ million

| | Total dwellings, (excluding land) | Gross National Income (GNI) | Dwellings of GNI (Percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1980 | 8674 | 228055 | 3.80 |
| 1981 | 8138 | 250912 | 3.24 |
| 1982 | 8920 | 274261 | 3.25 |
| 1983 | 10447 | 301840 | 3.46 |
| 1984 | 11932 | 324597 | 3.68 |
| 1985 | 12219 | 352563 | 3.47 |
| 1986 | 14140 | 381383 | 3.71 |
| 1987 | 16548 | 418585 | 3.95 |
| 1988 | 21097 | 468351 | 4.50 |
| 1989 | 22771 | 512116 | 4.45 |
| 1990 | 21048 | 552770 | 3.81 |
| 1991 | 18339 | 582920 | 3.15 |
| 1992 | 18826 | 610651 | 3.08 |
| 1993 | 19886 | 640799 | 3.10 |

*Table A: Investment in housing and gross national income*

£ million

| | Total dwellings, (excluding land) | Gross National Income (GNI) | Dwellings of GNI (Percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 | 21155 | 684352 | 3.09 |
| 1995 | 22448 | 720317 | 3.12 |
| 1996 | 22516 | 766606 | 2.94 |
| 1997 | 23928 | 816484 | 2.93 |
| 1998 | 25222 | 874620 | 2.88 |
| 1999 | 25700 | 910115 | 2.82 |
| 2000 | 27394 | 959708 | 2.85 |
| 2001 | 29806 | 1011623 | 2.95 |
| 2002 | 34499 | 1076865 | 3.20 |
| 2003 | 38462 | 1140887 | 3.37 |
| 2004 | 44299 | 1209844 | 3.66 |
| 2005 | 48043 | 1258722 | 3.82 |
| 2006 | 54556 | 1319025 | 4.14 |

*Note:*
1. These figures are based on data last published, in September 2007.

*Table B: Further breakdown of investment in housing*

£ million

| | Total dwellings, (excluding land) | Households and NPISH (Percentage) | Central Government (Percentage) | Public non-financial corporations (Percentage) | Other (Percentage) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1980 | 8674 | — | — | — | — |
| 1981 | 8138 | — | — | — | — |
| 1982 | 8920 | — | — | — | — |
| 1983 | 10447 | — | — | — | — |
| 1984 | 11932 | — | — | — | — |
| 1985 | 12219 | — | — | — | — |
| 1986 | 14140 | — | — | — | — |
| 1987 | 16548 | — | — | — | — |
| 1988 | 21097 | — | — | — | — |
| 1989 | 22771 | 82.36 | — | — | — |
| 1990 | 21048 | 79.24 | — | — | — |
| 1991 | 18339 | 83.95 | — | — | — |
| 1992 | 18826 | 85.28 | 1.16 | 12.53 | 1.03 |
| 1993 | 19886 | 85.04 | 1.85 | 12.02 | 1.09 |
| 1994 | 21155 | 85.06 | 1.51 | 12.39 | 1.04 |
| 1995 | 22448 | 86.49 | 0.98 | 11.48 | 1.05 |
| 1996 | 22516 | 88.70 | 1.39 | 8.86 | 1.05 |
| 1997 | 23928 | 90.95 | 1.21 | 6.78 | 1.06 |
| 1998 | 25222 | 91.37 | 1.08 | 6.47 | 1.08 |
| 1999 | 25700 | 91.99 | 0.97 | 5.95 | 1.09 |
| 2000 | 27394 | 92.36 | 1.35 | 5.19 | 1.10 |
| 2001 | 29806 | 89.78 | 1.12 | 8.01 | 1.09 |
| 2002 | 34499 | 90.09 | 0.60 | 8.22 | 1.09 |
| 2003 | 38462 | 89.41 | 0.39 | 9.12 | 1.08 |
| 2004 | 44299 | 91.25 | 0.31 | 7.30 | 1.14 |
| 2005 | 48043 | 91.26 | 0.15 | 7.44 | 1.15 |
| 2006 | 54556 | 91.33 | 0.01 | 7.49 | 1.17 |

*Notes:*
1. These figures are based on data last published, in September 2007.
2. The breakdown of dwellings data is summarised in Table 9.1 of the 2007 Blue Book.
3. Where data is missing, it is unavailable before the start date for that series.

## Housing: Floods

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people remain displaced from their homes due to the floods in June and July in England. [171241]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: With our encouragement, local authorities have improved their collection of data about displaced households in recent weeks and we are currently working with Government offices and local authorities to compile an updated estimate of the number of households that remain displaced as a result of the floods in June and

July. Once we have the result of this exercise we will place a copy in the Library of the House.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to facilitate the return of displaced families to their homes following the summer 2007 floods. [171364]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* We expect all local authorities to have plans and procedures in place to tackle emergency repairs and homelessness, and indications are that these have worked well in the aftermath of the summer floods. Government officials and homelessness specialist advisors have been in contact with some of the affected areas, to offer support for local authorities as they help their local communities.

At a national level, the Government are making sure that local authorities and other agencies are supported to help householders, business and communities get back to normal as far as possible without unnecessary delays. To date we have made available a comprehensive package of up to £63 million to assist the affected regions, including up to £20 million in flood recovery grant from Communities and Local Government to support the recovery work of local authorities, and particularly their work with those in greatest and most immediate need. Local authorities have the flexibility to decide how to best to use the grant based on their own local circumstances. In practice, this has covered a wide range of action, including support payments to flood-affected households, and provision of temporary caravans to allow people to remain within their communities while houses are repaired.

Flood-affected local authorities have also been able apply to Communities and Local Government for help through the Bellwin scheme which provides financial assistance to local authorities dealing with emergencies. Exceptionally, the terms of the present schemes have been made more generous because of the circumstances of the recent floods. 50 local authorities have registered for assistance for the June scheme and 52 have registered for the July scheme. 20 local authorities have registered for both schemes. Authorities have six months to spend under this scheme and two have now submitted interim claims.

The Government continue to work closely with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) to establish how the insurance industry is dealing with policy holders who have been hit by the floods. The ABI has made clear the insurance industry's commitment to maintaining momentum over the coming months in dealing with outstanding claims. However, it will still take time for some properties to dry out before the necessary repairs can be carried out, and this means that some people will not be back in their homes until next year.

**Mr. Peter Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent meetings she has held with the local authorities affected by the summer 2007 floods where households are still displaced. [171365]

**John Healey** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* CLG Ministers, including the Secretary of State, have made a series of visits to those areas worst affected by the summer floods, including those areas where people remain displaced from their homes. As flood recovery Minister I have visited the city of Kingston upon Hull a number of times since the floods in June, with the most recent visit taking place on 14 November.

I and other CLG Ministers have also made various visits to other affected local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region, Nottinghamshire, and the South West. The Prime Minister visited several of the worst affected areas in the immediate aftermath of the floods, including Gloucester and Hull.

These visits have been useful opportunities for Ministers to meet local authority staff and members who are leading recovery efforts, and visits to affected areas will continue.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* highest and *(c)* median salary was of shared ownership property purchasers in each London borough in 2006. [167579]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** We do not centrally hold data on the lowest, highest and median salary of shared ownership property purchasers in each London borough in 2006. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Housing: Overcrowding

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to update the housing standard on overcrowding. [167572]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Government are committed to addressing overcrowding and we are considering updating the standards. However, we do not believe this in itself will solve overcrowding without having the means in place to help overcrowded families and we are considering how we can most effectively address the problem. We have already announced an increase in the provision of new social housing. We have also invested over £35 million in London pilot schemes in the period 2006-08 to provide innovative solutions to some of the worst cases of overcrowding and will be looking carefully at the lessons learned from these.

### Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of private sector housing renewal grant is planned *(a)* for older people and *(b)* for people with disabilities in 2007-08; and what the level was in each of the last five years. [168178]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Details of private sector renewal assistance since 2002 can be found in the 2006 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix K which is published on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/153005.

The information has also been deposited in the Library of the House.

An element of this goes towards assisting people with disabilities but the figures are not broken down in to specific categories.

### Local Authorities: Citizenship

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish guidance for local authorities on how to run effective citizenship activities. [169615]

**Mr. Dhanda:** Guidance on how to run a citizens' day was published jointly with the Citizenship Foundation on 29 November.

### Planning Permission: Quarrying

**Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dormant quarries have planning permission for mineral extraction in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* England. [169972]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Legislation introduced in 1991 for the review of old mining consents, and in 1995 for the review of old mineral permissions, defines mineral sites as 'dormant' if no mineral development has been carried out to any substantial extent in, respectively, the period 1 May 1989 to 30 April 1991 and the period 22 February 1982 to 6 June 1995. British Geological Survey data record 487 dormant mineral sites in England in 2006, of which 88 are in the North West.

### Regional Development Agencies

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she expects regional assemblies to transfer responsibility for regional housing and planning matters to regional development agencies; [171623]

(2) what the procedure will be for designating regional development agencies as regional planning bodies. [171658]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The transfer of regional planning body designation to regional development agencies will require primary legislation.

The Government will be consulting on the detailed implementation of the transfer early in 2008.

The Government aim to put new arrangements in place by 2010.

### Regional Planning and Development: Green Belt

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings were built within the 1997 designated green belt in each year in *(a)* England and *(b)* each Government office region between 1997 and 2006. [171499]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The 1997 designated green belt covered 1,652,300 hectares of land. Between 1997 and 2005 45,240 homes were built within the 1997 designated green belt, 4 per cent. of all dwellings built within that time. The figures for each region and year over this time can be seen in the following table. Robust data are not yet available for 2006.

*Number of dwellings built on the 1997 designated green belt*

| | *1997* | *1998* | *1999* | *2000* | *2001* | *2002* | *2003* | *2004* | *2005* | *1997-2005* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North East | 50 | 150 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 60 | 60 | 100 | 520 |
| North West | 1,320 | 1,080 | 1,250 | 1,590 | 710 | 1,090 | 1,230 | 700 | 1,060 | 10,030 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 770 | 670 | 810 | 580 | 800 | 960 | 750 | 590 | 510 | 6,440 |
| East Midlands | 190 | 150 | 50 | 300 | 240 | 110 | 100 | 180 | 100 | 1,410 |
| West Midlands | 620 | 540 | 760 | 830 | 770 | 930 | 660 | 650 | 800 | 6,570 |
| East of England | 580 | 940 | 970 | 960 | 1,030 | 450 | 730 | 710 | 620 | 6,990 |
| London | 160 | 450 | 200 | 380 | 280 | 480 | 280 | 240 | 230 | 2,690 |
| South East | 940 | 800 | 1,290 | 1,200 | 1,030 | 790 | 920 | 1,080 | 660 | 8,710 |
| South West | 170 | 310 | 190 | 250 | 250 | 190 | 120 | 100 | 150 | 1,730 |
| England | 4,710 | 5,080 | 5,630 | 6,030 | 5,240 | 4,920 | 4,870 | 4,390 | 4,370 | 45,240 |

*Notes*:
1. There is an inevitable time-lag between land use change occurring and it being recorded, therefore data are constantly being updated.
2. The data in the table are based on records received from Ordnance Survey up to June 2007, published in October 2007.

### Religious Buildings

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 786W, on religious buildings, if she will contact local authorities in *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* Manchester with a view to establishing the names and addresses of mosques in those cities. [170366]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The Government currently have no plans to contact local authorities in London, Birmingham or Manchester in order to establish the names and addresses of mosques.

### Social Rented Housing: Rents

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much additional rental income will arise from rent restructuring if continued in each year to 2011. [164939]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The forecast of additional rental income arising from rent restructuring continuing in each year to 2011-12 would require the projection of dwelling stock totals to that date, which the Department does not have. Even with these data local authorities are free to set their own rents and so, although they will be

mindful of the guideline rent in the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system, we would be unable to forecast what rent levels might be.

For housing associations, the Housing Corporation does have stock projections extending to 2012, but not in a format that would allow the calculation of additional rental income as asked. To answer the question would require a detailed breakdown of stock and the rental income associated with that stock.

### Waste Disposal

**Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to improve access to civic amenity sites. [165295]

**Joan Ruddock:** I have been asked to reply.

Section 51(1)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires waste disposal authorities to provide places where residents can deposit their household waste free of charge. Section 51(2) specifies that these sites shall be reasonably accessible to residents, open at all reasonable times including a period on Saturdays and free of charge.

As a general rule, the Government believe local authorities are best placed to make decisions on the waste management strategy for their communities and therefore DEFRA does not intervene in these matters.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Climate Change

6. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist the world's poorest countries address the adverse impacts of climate change. [171079]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID is helping developing countries prepare for climate change by, for example:

contributing to UN funds for developing adaptation strategies;

carrying out climate risk assessment of our own programmes in a number of countries and funding further climate adaptation research.

9. **Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help the world's poorest countries address the effects of climate change. [171082]

**Mr. Thomas:** I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for City of Chester (Christine Russell) today (UIN 171079).

### HIV/AIDS: Sub-Saharan Africa

7. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to increase UK assistance allocated to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. [171080]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK HIV/AIDS strategy "Taking Action" commits the UK to spending £1.5 billion on HIV/AIDS between 2005 and 2008. Of this, at least £150 million will be spent on orphans and vulnerable children, most of which will go to sub-Saharan Africa.

### Somaliland

8. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing for the development of democratic processes in the Republic of Somaliland. [171081]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID is contributing over £1 million to a democratisation programme in Somaliland.

The programme, implemented by Interpeace, currently supports the National Electoral Commission to:

develop its capacity;

produce a credible voter registration system and

deliver free and fair elections.

It also supports civil society to engage in the democratic process.

### HIV/AIDS

10. **Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on global efforts to address HIV/AIDS. [171083]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID Ministers over the last few months have had discussions with a wide range of international counterparts including the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Ministers of Health signed up to the International Health Partnership, the International Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), the Clinton Foundation, the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, UNAIDS, UNFPA, WHO and others.

Discussions have concentrated on international commitments to HIV and AIDS, including the commitment to universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010.

### Elections

11. **Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to support free and fair elections in developing countries over the last 12 months. [171084]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID provided over £8 million to support the elections in Sierra Leone that were widely perceived as free and fair and resulted in a peaceful transition of power to the opposition. The Department also provided £6 million to support the last election in Nigeria. We are already providing support for forthcoming elections in Kenya, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sudan and Malawi. In a process ending in early 2007, we provided £25 million to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) election—our largest contribution to date to a national election.

### Burma

12. **Mrs. Caroline Spelman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Burma. [171085]

**Mr. Malik:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Members for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) and North West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara) toady (UIN 171074 and 171076)

### IT: Africa

13. **Mr. Peter Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department has to provide children in Africa with access to information technology. [171086]

**Mr. Thomas:** The majority of DFID's bilaterial aid to education in Africa is provided through sector and budget support. Decisions on investment priorities are made locally by the recipient Government. DFID funds are used to support IT in schools through teaching training; through our multilateral funding of organisations like the Commonwealth of Learning, who provide expertise on both software and hardware; and through our policy dialogue with Governments and the new partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) on the role of IT in schools

### Bangladesh

14. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to provide aid and assistance to Bangladesh to deal with the damage caused by cyclone Sidr. [171087]

**Mr. Malik:** The UK Government has provided £7 million for cyclone Sidr relief in Bangladesh. The first tranche of £2.5 million went through the Bangladesh United Nations development programme (UNDP).

An additional £2.5 million was announced by the Secretary of State on 23 November to be programmed through three international NGOs.

A further £2 million announced by the Secretary of State on 28 November to support the short to medium-term response.

### Djibouti

15. **Mr. Brian Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department plans to offer to assist the operation of the forthcoming elections in Djibouti. [171088]

**Mr. Malik:** We have no plans to offer bilateral assistance for the forthcoming elections in Djibouti. The United Kingdom does not have a bilateral aid programme in Djibouti. Any UK support would be channelled through our core contributions to multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, United Nations and European Commission.

### Asylum: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Salmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department allocated to support work with refugees from *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan, *(c)* Sudan and *(d)* Somalia in each of the last 10 years. [169440]

**Mr. Malik:** It is not possible to determine the level of DFID support for refugees from the above countries from central systems.

The following table shows DFID bilateral humanitarian assistance in total and in each country over the last ten years. This assistance supports a range of activities including work supporting refugees and internally displaced people.

*DFID bilateral humanitarian assistance, 1997-98 to 2006-07*

*£000*

| | *DFID bilateral humanitarian assistance, of which:* | *Iraq* | *Afghanistan* | *Sudan* | *Somalia* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 94,680 | 3,351 | 6,685 | 4,337 | 1,047 |
| 1998-99 | 113,711 | 5,749 | 2,579 | 23,497 | 1,079 |
| 1999-2000 | 224,700 | 6,585 | 4,917 | 2,774 | 372 |
| 2000-01 | 222,431 | 9,545 | 6,563 | 4,491 | 1,235 |
| 2001-02, | 192,446 | 7,760 | 49,943 | 5,164 | 1,638 |
| 2002-03 | 294,891 | 18,853 | 44,253 | 16,338 | 2,920 |
| 2003-04 | 310,602 | 110,052 | 10,457 | 21,872 | 3,172 |
| 2004-05 | 332,318 | 21,383 | 7,067 | 77,904 | 3,543 |
| 2005-06 | 405,978 | 4,770 | 3,390 | 97,792 | 15,589 |
| 2006-07 | 336,473 | 10,085 | 1,613 | 83,614 | 7,975 |

DFID also provides funds to a range of civil society organisations and multilateral institutions that support refugees and internally displaced people across the world.

### Burma: Overseas Investment

**Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much British companies have invested in Burma in each of the last five years; and which companies have made such investments. [162548]

**Mr. Thomas:** I have been asked to reply. The UK Government discourage trade and investment with Burma. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures for the UK's foreign direct investment in Burma for the period

2001-04 are protected by commercial confidentiality. The ONS recorded a nil investment return in 2005. Data for 2006 will be published in February 2008.

### Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170170]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID is party to a Government contract in respect of an overnight internal mail service between our two UK offices. This contract is currently let to TNT Express (UK) Ltd. No other private companies are contracted to provide mail services.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170230]

**Mr. Malik:** I have placed a copy of DFID's Identity Standards in the Library of the House.

The Identity Standards booklet was produced in financial year 2005-06 and cost £21,504.50 to produce. There are no ongoing production costs, as the booklet has not to date been reprinted.

The booklet was a refinement of existing guidance into one easy-to-use package for staff to refer to, so there were no initial compliance costs. This has led to substantial time savings for staff in having consistent, easily accessible guidance across all applications. The only ongoing compliance cost is a small amount of Communications Division staff time for guidance and monitoring compliance. This is a routine function of the Communications Division and it is not possible to disaggregate the precise time or cost involved.

### Departmental Pay

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people in his Department earned over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167197]

**Mr. Malik:** The numbers of DFID staff who received salaries of over £100,000, including performance pay, in each year since 1997 (for which data are available) are shown in the following table:

| | *Number of staff* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | n/a |
| 1998-99 | 1 |
| 1999-2000 | 1 |
| 2000-01 | 1 |
| 2001-02 | 3 |
| 2002-03 | 3 |
| 2003-04 | 3 |
| 2004-05 | 3 |
| 2005-06 | 6 |
| 2006-07 | 5 |

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167275]

**Mr. Malik:** DFID is unable to respond to all parts of this question as our central records do not go back to 1997 and the cost of each secondment is not maintained. We have held central secondment records since 2003, details of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

### Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the Environmental Transformation Fund has been earmarked for adaptation in developing countries. [169297]

**Mr. Thomas:** Apart from the £50 million earmarked for the Congo Basin, which was announced in the Budget, we have yet to take a decision on how the Environmental Transformation Fund will be allocated. Decisions about any resource allocations (including an allocation to adaptation) will be agreed by relevant Ministers and an HMG governance board in consultation with key stakeholders over the coming months.

### Food and Agriculture Organisation

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [169496]

**Mr. Thomas:** I met the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Dr. Jacques Diouf, on 24 October in London and addressed the FAO General Conference in Rome on 19 November. These were part of the frequent discussions which DFID has with the FAO at all levels. The main focus of discussions has been on reform of the FAO following a recently concluded independent external evaluation, which recommended that significant changes were needed. We have made clear the importance we attach to implementing the independent evaluation's recommendations.

Officials have also had technical discussions with FAO including on climate change, forestry, fisheries, livestock, avian influenza, food standards, agricultural trade and communications.

### Occupied Territories: Poverty

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the percentage of Palestinians *(a)* in the West Bank and *(b)* in the Gaza Strip (i) living below the poverty line and (ii) unemployed; and what assessment he has made of the impact of his policies on their situation. [170017]

**Mr. Malik:** According to the UN Development programme, 56 per cent. of households in the West Bank, and 70 per cent. in Gaza were living below the income poverty line in early 2007. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, unemployment in the second quarter of 2007 was 23 per cent. in the West Bank, and 32 per cent. in Gaza. More recent data reflecting the deteriorating situation in Gaza since June 2007 are not available. While poverty and unemployment levels have both increased, the situation would be far worse without international assistance. During 2006, aid from DFID and other donors helped to slow the decline in gross domestic product from a predicted fall of 27 per cent. to 10 per cent.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) provides humanitarian updates at www.ochaopt.org. DFID plans to conduct a humanitarian assessment in Gaza in coordination with the UN.

### Sudan: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [169107]

**Meg Munn:** I have been asked to reply.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) has ensured nearly three years of largely peaceful relations between North and South Sudan after over two decades of civil war. Many provisions of the CPA have been implemented, allowing several important power and wealth sharing measures to be put in place.

The withdrawal of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) from the Government of National Unity on 11 October was partly due to the SPLM's concern that some aspects of the CPA needed to be addressed, including full re-deployment of troops, resolution of the Abyei boundary and greater transparency in distribution of oil wealth. We are urging both sides to enter dialogue on these issues and allow full implementation of the CPA.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations the Government have made to NATO on logistical support for the UN-African Union force in Darfur, Sudan. [169112]

**Meg Munn:** I have been asked to reply.

The UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), in consultation with the African Union, is generating the UN-African Union hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID) through negotiations with individual countries rather than multilateral institutions. We have not made representations to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) on logistical support for UNAMID.

In 2005 the African Union requested NATO's assistance for the African Union peacekeeping mission (AMIS) in Darfur. Since July 2005, NATO has coordinated strategic airlift for AMIS. NATO will continue this support until the transition from AMIS to UNAMID on 31 December 2007. Working with NATO, we continue to fund specific AMIS troop rotation airlifts.

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likelihood that the UN-African Union force will be able to deploy in full strength in Darfur, Sudan by January 2008. [169114]

**Meg Munn:** I have been asked to reply.

Under the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 1769, the UN-African Union hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID) is due to assume authority from the current African Union Mission in Sudan, no later than 31 December 2007

"... with a view to achieving full operational capability and force strength as soon as possible thereafter".

The UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, told the UN Security Council on 27 November that there are continuing shortfalls in ground transport and helicopter contributions for UNAMID. We are working closely with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to fill the shortfalls. Deployment will also depend on co-operation by the Government of Sudan. We continue to press the DPKO, the African Union and the Government of Sudan, for a prompt and effective deployment of the UNAMID force.

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what air and ground transport capacity the Government *(a)* have provided and *(b)* plan to provide to the UN-African Union force in Darfur, Sudan. [169115]

**Meg Munn:** I have been asked to reply.

We have paid for troop rotation airlifts for the African Union (AU) Mission in Sudan which will become part of the UN-AU force in Darfur (UNAMID). We support the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations' efforts to provide helicopters and ground transportation for UNAMID.

### UN Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses

**Mr. Godsiff:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when the UK is to ratify the UN Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses. [169298]

**Mr. Thomas:** As the United Kingdom (UK) never signed the Convention, and since the time for signing the Convention is closed, the process now would be for accession rather than ratification.

The UK has no immediate plans to accede to the 1997 United Nations (UN) Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses. Only 16 countries have ratified the Convention, whereas 35 countries are required for the Convention to enter into force. The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing the international development benefits of accession, and as part of this is seeking views from foreign Governments, NGOs and academics.

DFID is supporting transboundary water processes in the Middle East, and in Africa through the Nile Basin Initiative. These demonstrate the value of practical approaches to transboundary cooperation on water that yield significant benefits. In neither case is accession to the Convention considered necessary for our support of these processes.

## JUSTICE

### Departmental Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many illegal immigrants were discovered working for his Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170508]

**Maria Eagle:** One member of staff within HM Courts Service (HMCS) was dismissed with immediate effect on the grounds of being an illegal immigrant. The individual concerned provided the Department with false documentation including a false passport.

The Prison Service does not hold a central record of any such individuals. To provide this information, all establishments and sections would be required to check their records and to do so would incur a disproportionate cost.

Neither the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR), the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) nor other agencies within my Department have discovered any illegal immigrants working for them.

### Departmental Publicity

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [167952]

**Maria Eagle:** Since 23 November 2006 my Department has spent the following on advertising;

Ministry of Justice HQ: £103,000

A magistrates recruitment campaign to promote recruitment to the lay magistracy.

Her Majesty's Courts Service: £20,837

'Operation payback' to target court fine defaulters.

Since 23 November 2006: My Department has also spent the following on recruitment advertising.

Ministry of Justice HQ: £528,650

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: £50,000

National Offender Management Service including HM Probation Service: £264,000

HM Prisons Service: £238,000

General recruitment is not centrally managed in HM Prisons Service. To obtain figures would be disproportionate to cost. Current recruitment advertising is taking place in the South Central region to recruit 500 prison officers. The advertising spend is as shown.

### End of Custody Licence Scheme

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners transferred from a Northern Ireland prison to a prison in England and Wales have qualified for early release under the End of Custody Licence scheme. [170459]

**Mr. Hanson:** Of the 11 prisoners transferred from Northern Ireland to England and Wales since 2000 to serve their sentences under the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1997, none has been released under the End of Custody Licence (ECL) scheme.

Eight of the 11 prisoners were released from custody before the ECL scheme was introduced and three remain in custody.

Prisoners transferred from Northern Ireland to serve their sentences in England and Wales may be released on ECL provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

### Legal Services Commission: Internet

**Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) for what reasons the Legal Services Commission Online was suspended indefinitely on 17 November 2007; and if he will make a statement; [170509]

(2) when he expects Legal Services Commission Online to become operational again; [170511]

(3) how much has been spent on Legal Services Commission Online; and how much has been allocated to the service for each of the next three years. [170513]

**Maria Eagle:** The new LSC Online service is part of an e-business application, which will enable the Legal Services Commission and its providers to achieve efficiencies through increased electronic working. Although the system was tested prior to implementation, it was only when it was loaded with live data that extensive problems became apparent. As a consequence, on 19 November the LSC took the decision to close LSC Online until further notice.

The LSC is working hard with its technical partners Oracle and Steria to resolve these problems as soon as possible. In the meantime, alternative arrangements have been put in place to ensure that December's payments to suppliers are unaffected.

LSC Online is part of the Commission's new supplier management system, a fundamental overhaul of the way its IT systems operate. The cost of this overhaul is £2.2 million in 2006-07, and £2.7million in 2007-08, the end of the implementation process. The expected costs for ongoing maintenance and support of the whole supplier management system is £860,000 in each of the next three years.

### Office of the Information Commissioner: Finance

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007 from the Secretary of State for Justice, *Official Report*, columns 303-4W, on the Office of the Information Commissioner: finance, how much his Department agreed for the Information Commissioner to retain under section 26 of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last three years. [170428]

**Mr. Wills:** With the approval of HM Treasury, the Information Commissioner has retained all the notification fees collected from data controllers since 2005-06. The figures retained in this period have been as follows:

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2005-06: | 9.6 |
| 2006-07: | 10.2 |
| 2007-08: | [1]10.6 |

[1] Forecast

Prior to this date, his responsibilities for data protection and freedom of information were both funded by a grant in aid.

### Police Custody

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions prisoners were housed in police stations in each of the last six months due to prison overcrowding; and what additional funding has been provided to the police forces providing prison services. [170465]

**Mr. Hanson:** The following table shows the occasions prisoners have been held under Operation Safeguard in England and Wales in each of the last six months.[1]

| 2007 | Occasions[1] |
|---|---|
| June | 9,121 |
| July | 747 |
| August | 4,575 |
| September | 6,820 |
| October | 8,598 |
| November | 6,830 |

[1] One occasion means one prisoner night in a police cell.

The police forces involved charge NOMS for the cost of making police cells available to accommodate prisoners.

### Prisons: Mobile Phones

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mobile telephones were seized in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 12 months. [170463]

**Maria Eagle:** Prison establishments are required to send all seized mobile telephones to HMPS Security Group for interrogation. The following table contains the number of mobile phones (which includes handsets, handsets containing SIM cards, and individual SIM cards) seized and sent for interrogation in each month from 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007.

| Month | Total number submitted for interrogation |
|---|---|
| October 2006 | 230 |
| November 2006 | 249 |
| December 2006 | 178 |
| January 2007 | 310 |
| February 2007 | 330 |
| March 2007 | 240 |
| April 2007 | 272 |
| May 2007 | 400 |
| June 2007 | 302 |
| July 2007 | 334 |
| August 2007 | 333 |
| September 2007 | 295 |
| Total | 3,473 |

### Wymott Prison: Occupational Health

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons a staff notice was issued to prison officers at HMP Wymott on the wearing of tie pins. [170862]

**Maria Eagle:** The notice to staff at HMP Wymott, reminding staff of existing Prison Service policy on wearing tie pins with uniform, was issued in response to the circulation of a new tie pin by the POA which commemorated the unlawful strike action taken by prison officers on 29 August 2007. Prison Service policy is that wearing a tie pin of this political nature on uniform would be incompatible with the Service's role.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons prison staff from HMP Wymott have been sent for Atos occupational health appointments; how many have been sent to such appointments in the last six months; and what the cost of these appointments has been. [170863]

**Maria Eagle:** In the last six months since 1 June 2007, 109 members of staff have been referred to the OH provider (Atos Healthcare) in accordance with PSO 8403, Management of Attendance Procedures. 31 members of staff have been referred to the occupational health nurse (Atos) for supportive reasons—where it has been felt after discussion between the staff member and the manager that referral to occupational health may be of benefit and support to the individual for a variety of reasons. 308 members of staff have been through the immunisation programme (provided by Atos) since April 2007.

The costs of referrals are commercial in confidence.

### Young Offenders: Injuries

**Dr. Vis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what injuries were incurred by boys held in *(a)* Ashford, *(b)* Brinsford and *(c)* Castington Young Offenders Institution following use of control and restraint in each month in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [167802]

**Maria Eagle:** The information for Ashfield, Brinsford and Castington is set out in the following table and relates to the period until the end of October 2007. The collation of this statistical data commenced at Brinsford in January 2007 and is not available prior to this date. It should be noted that Castington record the incidents in some detail and that the incidents marked with an asterisks were subsequent to fights between young people, and that it is likely that the injuries were sustained in the fights rather than during restraint. The incidents are recorded nonetheless.

1. *[Official Report, 20 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 8MC.]*

| *Establishment* | *Ashfield* | *Brinsford* | *Castington* |
|---|---|---|---|
| January 2006 | | | Nose bleed. |
| February 2006 | 1 - sprained ankle | | Nose bleed and pain in wrist (L) |
| | 6 – file archived | | Graze to R eyebrow and cut lip* |
| | | | Marks to neck and upper body* |
| | | | Scratch to nose* |
| | | | Pain in R thumb joint* |
| | | | Marks to face* |
| | | | Pain to L wrist and thumb* |
| March2006 | 8 - file archived | | Scratch to cheek |
| April 2006 | 5 - file archived | | Graze to knee* |
| May 2006 | 4 - file archived | | Redness to wrist |
| | 1 - sprained wrist | | Cut lip |
| | 1 - scratched back | | Bruised knuckle* |
| | 1-scratched left forearm | | Redness to wrist |
| | 1 - tender left wrist | | |
| June 2006 | 1 - scratched finger | | |
| | 1 - redness to back of hand | | |
| | 1 - file archived | | |
| | 1 - self-harmed after C and R | | |
| | 1 - swelling left wrist | | |
| | 1 - redness to neck | | |
| July 2006 | 1 - redness to wrist | | Red mark to rib cage* |
| | 1 - file archived | | Red mark to cheek* |
| | 1 - redness to wrist | | Nose bleed |
| August 2006 | 1 redness to wrist | | Cut to L temple |
| | 1 - file archived | | Bite mark on chin* |
| | 1 - redness to wrist | | Bloody mouth* |
| | | | Bloody mouth* |
| | | | Swelling to R knuckle |
| | | | Swelling to R knuckle* |
| | | | Swelling to R knuckle* |
| May 2006 | 4 - file archived | | Redness to wrist |
| | 1 - sprained wrist | | Cut lip |
| | 1 - scratched back | | Bruised knuckle* |
| | 1 - scratched left forearm | | Redness to wrist |
| | 1 - tender left wrist | | |
| September 2006 | 1 - red marks on wrist and elbow | | Bruised nose* |
| | 1 - file archived | | Swollen thumb |
| | 1 - bruised elbow | | Graze to nose and forehead. |
| | | | Bruise to left cheek |
| | | | Graze to nose. |
| | | | Abrasion to L shoulder* |
| | | | Graze to L shoulder |
| October 2006 | 1 - red marks to neck | | |
| | 1 - cut to left forearm | | |
| November 2006 | 1 - back pain | | Swelling to left eye |
| | 1 - fracture ulna/radius | | Swollen left thumb |
| | 1 - swollen hand | | |
| | 1 - swelling on thigh | | |
| | 1 - red wrist | | |
| December 2006 | 1 - bruise on neck | | Bruise to face* |
| | 1 - dizziness | | |
| January 2007 | 1 - swelling under eye/red marks to both wrists | Nil | |

| *Establishment* | *Ashfield* | *Brinsford* | *Castington* |
|---|---|---|---|
| February 2007 | 1 - sore left ear/bruised | Nil | Cut lip* |
| | 1 - handcuff marks to both wrists | | Bruise to hand* |
| March 2007 | | Small cut to head ( required suture) | Fractured wrist |
| April 2007 | | Nil | Swollen left cheek |
| | | | Swelling to left knee* |
| May 2007 | 4 - grazes to face | Nil | |
| June 2007 | | Graze to forehead | Cut lip |
| | | | Swelling above left eye* |
| July 2007 | | Nil | Sore wrist |
| | | | Sore wrist |
| | | | Graze to face* |
| August 2007 | 1 - right side of head painful/complaining of neck pain | Nil | Graze to forehead |
| | 1 - cuff marks noted to both wrists | | |
| September 2007 | 1 - red marks to wrist | Minor injury to forehead | Sore wrist Painful elbow |
| | 1 - scratch to upper body | | |
| | 1 - bruising to upper arms/red arms | | |
| | 1 - sprain to both wrists | | |
| October 2007 | | Minor scratches | Painful shoulder |
| | | | Swollen hand* |
| November 2007 | | | |
| December 2007 | | | |

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

### Carbon Sequestration: Licensing

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the licensing for future offshore carbon capture and storage facilities; and if he will make a statement. [170893]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Government will bring forward proposals relating to the licensing of offshore carbon capture and storage facilities as part of the Energy Bill, which will be introduced in this parliamentary session.

### Coastal Areas

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [170894]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA undertook a public consultation in 2006 seeking views on how to promote an integrated approach to coastal zone management in England. We published a summary of responses to that consultation in June 2007.

Responses to that consultation, and also that on the Marine Bill White Paper, emphasised the important contribution that new legislation could make to improving integration in coastal areas. DEFRA is, therefore, currently focusing on developing effective Marine Bill proposals as a key element of our strategy, and we are working to publish a draft Bill in the spring of 2008.

I intend to publish a statement in the summer of 2008 about how the Marine Bill and other work across Government Departments will contribute to our strategy on integrated coastal zone management, and will then consider what further action may need to be taken after that time.

Each of the devolved Administrations are taking forward their own approaches, although we are working closely together to share ideas.

### Coral: Lyme Bay

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he plans to introduce measures to protect the pink sea fan colonies of Lyme Bay; and if he will make a statement; [170914]

(2) when he expects to make a long term decision on protecting the biodiversity of Lyme Bay; and if he will make a statement. [170946]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Voluntary measures to protect the pink sea fan colonies at Lyme Bay were agreed on 24 August 2006 and these are still in place. Public consultation is under way (until 21 December 2007) to consider whether further measures are necessary to protect biodiversity at Lyme Bay more generally. Following this consultation a decision will be made in the new year as to the protection measures necessary at Lyme Bay.

### Crabs: Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on brown crab conservation. [170916]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Conservation of brown crab stocks is achieved currently through a restrictive national

shellfish licensing scheme which limits the number of vessels allowed to participate in the fishery, through EU and national minimum landing sizes (which vary from region to region) and through strict limits on the quantities of crab claws that may be landed. There are also a range of measures applied by different Sea Fisheries Committees such as permit schemes, a prohibition on the landing of egg-bearing female crabs, seasonal closures and the incorporation of escape gaps in crab pots to allow undersized crabs to escape.

In response to industry concerns about increasing levels of effort in brown crab fisheries, DEFRA circulated a discussion paper on a range of potential management measures in late 2006. DEFRA is considering the way forward in the light of responses to the discussion paper, which revealed no consensus on possible additional measures but tended towards support for an EU or regional solution.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of brown crab stocks in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [170917]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Assessments of brown crab stocks are made by Government scientists at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science. Stocks are managed at both national and Sea Fisheries Committee level. Stocks appear to be stable at the moment but most brown crab grounds available to fisheries are known and fully utilised. The stocks are assessed in six "stock management units" defined as sea areas in England and Wales. Major crab fisheries exist in the Central North Sea, Southern North Sea, and Western Channel, while smaller crab fisheries exist in the Eastern Channel, Celtic Sea, and Irish Sea. Most crab fisheries tend to be heavily exploited and it would be inadvisable for fishing effort to increase beyond current levels. Females predominate in landings but there is no evidence of reduced levels of recruitment.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the devolved administrations and *(b)* the EU on brown crab conservation; and if he will make a statement. [170918]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA has regular contact with devolved Administrations on shellfish conservation in the course of general exchanges, and formally include them in consultations where the conservation of brown crabs is concerned. Should strategic developments in brown crab conservation measures be considered by any of the Administrations there are open channels in which reciprocal impacts on neighbour's fisheries can be considered. No recent discussions have taken place with the EU on this issue.

### Departmental Sustainable Development

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department expects to meet the commitment in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets *(a)* to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [167808]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has already met the commitment in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets to *(a)* source 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010.

Currently, 63 per cent. of electricity is sourced from renewables and 55 per cent. of waste is recycled.

### European Fisheries Fund

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when the consultation on the UK Operational Programme for the European Union Fisheries Fund will begin; and if he will make a statement; [170762]

(2) what consideration he has given to using the dispute resolution procedures set out in the devolution agreements to finalise the UK Operational Programme for fisheries; for what reasons he has not already used them; whether he plans to use them; whether he has set a deadline for the devolved administrations for reaching an agreement before using them; and if he will make a statement; [170763]

(3) whether he is required to hold a consultation on the UK Operational Programme for the European Fisheries Fund before he submits the Programme to the European Commission for approval; and if he will make a statement. [170765]

**Jonathan Shaw:** We aim to consult with fishermen, the aquaculture sector and other key stakeholders on the draft UK Operational Programme in early 2008. This will be a 12 week consultation.

Agreement has now been reached between all UK Fisheries Ministers regarding the division of the UK European Fisheries Fund budget and, as such, there is no dispute for which it would be necessary to use the dispute resolution procedures set out in the devolution agreements. DEFRA officials are working with their counterparts in the devolved Administrations to complete the UK Operational Programme, in order to enable the consultation to take place.

Under the terms of the relevant EC Regulation (1198/2006), it is a requirement that a member state shall draw up its Operational Programme in close consultation with the regional, local, economic and social partners in the fisheries sector and all other appropriate bodies.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 864-65W, on the European Fisheries Fund, up to what percentage the European Commission can propose a cut in the UK's European Fisheries Fund budget; and if he will make a statement; [170764]

(2) what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the penalties that could be imposed by the European Commission for late submission and approval of the UK Operational Programme on Fisheries; [170777]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 863-64W, on the European Fisheries Fund, what assessment he has made of the

effect that a reduction in the European Fisheries Fund budget for the UK would have on his Department; and if he will make a statement. [170778]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The European Commission has made projections for how much each member state will spend under each year of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) programme. For the UK this is as follows:

| | *Current prices in euros* |
|---|---|
| 2007 | 18,825,212 |
| 2008 | 19,107,072 |
| 2009 | 19,392,676 |
| 2010 | 19,682,062 |
| 2011 | 19,975,266 |
| 2012 | 20,272,325 |
| 2013 | 20,573,276 |

In the event that Operational Programmes (OPs) are not approved by the Commission by the end of 2007, the Commission could, in principle:

(a) propose to the European Council and Parliament that funds (that is, the amount of projected spend for 2007) be transferred to later years of the programme; or

(b) propose a cut in the EFF budget, in effect reducing the UK budget (by the amount of projected spend for 2007).

All member states have experienced delays in implementing the programme. Until the UK OP has been approved, the UK cannot spend EFF funds and therefore spending will not match the Commission's projections. The Commission may therefore propose either of the aforementioned courses of action. I will support any Commission proposal and seek the necessary EU Council and Parliament agreement which would result in the 2007 allocation being carried forward.

No assessment has be made of the effect that a reduction in the EFF budget for the UK would have on the Department, because it is not yet clear that any reduction will be imposed.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 864W, on the European Fisheries Fund, which EU member states *(a)* have and *(b)* have not submitted their Operational Programmes on fisheries to the European Commission for approval; which have had their Operational Programmes approved; and if he will make a statement. [170766]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Information regarding which EU member states have and have not submitted their European Fisheries Fund (EFF) Operational Programmes to the European Commission for approval, is not available.

Of those programmes already submitted to the Commission, I understand the Commission is aiming to have the majority approved by the end of the year. I understand that Finland is the only EU member state to have had their EFF Operational Programme approved by the Commission to date.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the UK National Strategic Plan for Fisheries in relation to the European Fisheries Fund for the period January 2007 to December 2013 has been submitted to the European Commission; what the deadline was for *(a)* submitting it to the Commission and *(b)* Commission approval; what penalties could be imposed for submission being made after the deadline has passed; and if he will make a statement. [170776]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The UK National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Fisheries, in relation to the European Fisheries Fund (2007-13), has not yet been submitted to the European Commission. DEFRA officials are working closely with those from the devolved administrations to finalise the NSP and I plan to submit it to the Commission by the end of the year.

The relevant EC Regulation (1198/2006) states that the NSP shall be submitted to the Commission, at the latest, when submitting the Operational Programme. The NSP does not require approval by the Commission but shall be the subject of a dialogue between the member state and the Commission. Failure to submit an NSP results in the Commission being unable to approve an Operational Programme.

### Eutrophication

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has commissioned on the eutrophication of UK waters; and if he will make a statement. [170935]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The eutrophication status of UK waters is reviewed at four year intervals by the Environment Agency (England and Wales), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Scotland) and the Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland) as required by the Nitrate and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directives.

UK coastal and marine waters are also reviewed by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Environment and Heritage Service for the Convention on the Prevention of Pollution of the Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention).

The last of these was conducted in 2002, with a further OSPAR review being completed this spring. Information on DEFRA sponsored eutrophication research is available on the DEFRA website.

### Fisheries

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to establish a fisheries marine protected area; and if he will make a statement. [170915]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Provided that the science clearly justifies them, DEFRA supports the concept of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) closed to fishing, both for sustainable management of fish stocks and for ecological reasons relating to species and habitats. The usefulness of protected areas as a fisheries conservation measure has to be evaluated in each individual case taking into account factors such as the biology of the stocks, character of the fishery, and other fisheries management measures already in place. It is recognised that there may be displacement of fishing effort from protected areas and these effects must also be managed.

DEFRA commissioned a number of reports in order to help clarify the potential role of MPAs when applied to fisheries management. These are available on the DEFRA website.

DEFRA intends to develop criteria for the selection of Marine Protected areas and then use those criteria to contribute to the development of an integrated approach to their designation and management, including the examination of the potential for fisheries conservation.

### Fisheries: Enforcement

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the effectiveness of aerial surveillance in support of fisheries enforcement. [170904]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Aerial surveillance supports fisheries enforcement, in that aircraft are tasked for some 1,000 hours (2006-07) to undertake monitoring of fisheries activity in English and Welsh waters. Tasking and monthly profiling of the aircraft patrols are directed from the operations room at the Marine and Fisheries Agency headquarters in London.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by the Government on aerial surveillance in relation to fisheries protection in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170905]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Aerial surveillance in relation to marine fisheries protection in the waters around England and Wales is undertaken by private contractors hired by the Marine and Fisheries Agency. The cost to the Marine and Fisheries Agency (Sea Fisheries Inspectorate prior to 1 October 2005) of these activities is given in the table as follows.

| *Financial year* | *Cost (£000)* |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 2,128 |
| 2000-01 | 2,343 |
| 2001-02 | 2,378 |
| 2002-03 | 2,460 |
| 2003-04 | 2,331 |
| 2004-05 | 2,639 |
| 2005-06 | 2,056 |
| 2006-07 | 1,910 |

Figures for the periods before 1999-2000 are no longer readily available in the Department's accounting records.

Aerial surveillance in respect of the waters around Scotland is undertaken by the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency, on behalf of the Scottish Executive, and is not funded by the Department.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the arrangements with Direct Flight Ltd. to provide aerial surveillance in relation to fisheries protection. [170906]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Marine and Fisheries Agency staff provide advance operational tasking and are then in daily operational contact with the pilot and ground staff when aircraft are tasked. DirectFlight are contracted to provide this coverage until March 2009. No decisions as to future coverage have yet been made.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles of aerial surveillance were provided in relation to fisheries enforcement in each month since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170907]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Aircraft do not provide mileage of either distance flown or actual sea covered as often they have to over-fly targets to confirm identification or ascertain vessel activity. I have arranged for copies of a table, containing information on the number of on-task hours provided each month since 1997, to be placed in the Libraries of the House. It can be assumed that the aircraft fly at approximately 150 knots when on task.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many on-board inspections of *(a)* UK and *(b)* foreign fishing vessels were undertaken in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170932]

**Jonathan Shaw:** A table which includes all relevant detail recorded by the Marine and Fisheries Agency from 1997, indicating vessel nationalities and inspected at sea, has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Fisheries: Quotas

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Inshore Fisheries Working Group on quota management; and if he will make a statement. [170902]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have not had any discussions with the Inshore Fisheries Working Group on quota management. However, I have had several meetings with inshore fishermen, both in London and around the coast, and quota management was a key topic of discussion at these meetings.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he expects to put forward proposals on reforming quota management that are agreed with the devolved administrations; and if he will make a statement; [170903]

(2) if he will make a statement on the Quota Management Change Programme; [170936]

(3) when he expects the Quota Management Change Programme to present proposals to improve the amount of quota available to the inshore fleet; and if he will make a statement; [170937]

(4) what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the devolved administrations about the Quota Management Change Programme; and if he will make a statement. [170938]

**Jonathan Shaw:** With regard to the current position on the Quota Management Change Programme (QMCP) and quota management reform, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 865W.

The issue was briefly discussed at a meeting of Fisheries Ministers from DEFRA and the devolved Administrations which was held in Peterhead on 5 October. No decisions were reached on the question of separate quota management arrangements for Scotland, and no formal proposals have yet been put to DEFRA.

In the light of the Scottish Executive's withdrawal from the QMCP, DEFRA officials are currently developing options to improve the current management arrangements for the under 10 m fleet. I expect to make an announcement on this matter soon.

### Fishing Vessels: Decommissioning

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many vessels he expects to be decommissioned under the provisions of the Decommissioning of Fishing Vessels Scheme 2007, S.I., 2007, No. 312; and if he will make a statement; [170941]

(2) how much he expects to be spent on decommissioning vessels with reference to the Decommissioning of Fishing Vessels Scheme 2007, S.I., 2007, No. 312; what will happen to the remaining monies; and if he will make a statement; [170943]

(3) how many vessels were considered for decommissioning with reference to the Decommissioning of Fishing Vessels Scheme 2007, S.I., 2007, No. 312; and if he will make a statement. [170944]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Bids were received from 26 vessels eligible under the 2007 decommissioning scheme.

Eight vessels have been decommissioned at a cost of £4,737,500. £5 million was allocated to the scheme. Allocating money to a ninth vessel would have exceeded the £5 million. Remaining monies were available for reallocation under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance programme.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what total tonnage is being decommissioned with reference to the Decommissioning of Fishing Vessels Scheme 2007, S.I., 2007, No. 312; what proportion this is of *(a)* the total tonnage of vessels in the South West and *(b)* the total tonnage of vessels in the South West that have quota for Western Channel sole; and if he will make a statement. [170942]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The total tonnage decommissioned under the 2007 decommissioning scheme is 1,578 gross tonnes.

The tonnage from South West vessels (that is, those with their port of administration in Brixham, Newlyn or Plymouth) decommissioned under the scheme is 1,275 gross tonnes. This represents *(a)* 5 per cent. of the total gross tonnage of all registered vessels in the South West and *(b)* 18 per cent. of the total gross tonnage of all vessels in the South West that have quota for Western Channel sole.

In addition, the tonnage from two Shoreham vessels decommissioned under the scheme is 303 gross tonnes.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on jobs that the decommissioning scheme will have with reference to the Decommissioning of Fishing Vessels Scheme 2007, S.I., 2007, No. 312; and if he will make a statement. [170945]

**Jonathan Shaw:** No assessment was made of the effect that the 2007 decommissioning scheme might have on jobs because it is for individual vessel owners to decide how they conduct their business, and how they address their own situation with regard to their employees.

### Flood Control: Finance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has to assess the appropriateness of the points scoring system which determines what areas have priority for funding for flood defence measures; [170418]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on the point scoring system for funding of flood defence measures; [170419]

(3) what safeguards are in place to ensure that rural areas receive sufficient funding for flood defence measures under the point scoring system for funding of flood defence measures. [170420]

**Mr. Woolas:** Following public consultation, new outcome measures for flood and coastal erosion risk management have been developed to set out more clearly what the overall programme should deliver.

The consultation also included a range of approaches to prioritisation for funding for flood defence measures. We are now working with the Environment Agency to develop an effective prioritisation process for the capital programme to deliver outcome measures in future years. We expect the revised prioritisation system to be introduced during the comprehensive spending review period.

As part of the economic assessment for flood risk management projects, the benefits are compared to cost so the crucial measurement is on benefits per unit cost and not on the absolute benefit of proposals. This ensures smaller (perhaps rural) projects are considered on an equal footing to larger (perhaps urban) ones.

While there is no clear bias against rural projects on the availability of funding, projects are more likely to go ahead in higher populated areas as these will tend to protect larger numbers of people or higher asset values for a given cost.

### Genetically Modified Organisms

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the United States Department of Agriculture on genetically modified organisms. [170364]

**Mr. Woolas:** We have not had any discussions with the US Department of Agriculture on genetically modified organisms.

### Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints he has received from recipients of warm front vouchers alleging that contractors have asked them to pay administration fees; and if he will make a statement. [169831]

**Mr. Woolas:** Since the £300 voucher rebate scheme started in 2006, eaga plc has received three complaints.

### Inland Waterways: Repairs and Maintenance

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the effect of proposed funding reductions for inland waterways on future maintenance and safety of canals. [170520]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 741W.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on an application for provision of additional funding for inland waterways. [170521]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I receive correspondence from a wide range of stakeholders regarding funding for the inland waterways. DEFRA sponsors the three largest navigation authorities—British Waterways, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority.

The formal comprehensive spending review settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11 for Departments has been announced. This will now be followed by DEFRA's own financial allocation process which is based on careful prioritisation across the Department and all its sponsored bodies. We are actively engaging delivery partners in this, but most final allocations, including those for the Environment Agency and British Waterways, will not be known until the new year after further discussions within DEFRA.

### Lobsters: Conservation

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on lobster conservation. [170919]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Conservation of lobster stocks is achieved currently through a restrictive national shellfish licensing scheme which limits the number of vessels allowed to participate in the fishery. There are also local Sea Fisheries Committee (SFC) permit schemes, an EU minimum landing size, a national prohibition on the landing of v-notched or mutilated lobsters. A range of measures are also applied through SFCs, such as higher local minimum landing sizes, a prohibition on the landing of egg bearing (berried) female lobsters, the release of hatchery-reared juvenile lobsters into the wild, and escape gaps to allow undersized lobsters a route out of lobster pots.

In response to industry concern about conservation in the major lobster fisheries, DEFRA has consulted on an increase in the minimum landing size, and on the introduction of a maximum landing size. DEFRA is considering a way forward in the light of responses to the consultation which revealed divided views amongst stakeholders.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of lobster stocks in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [170920]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Lobster fisheries are assessed by Government scientists at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and by some Sea Fisheries Committees. The fisheries are predominantly inshore, and known grounds are fully utilised. Assessments show that, while catch rates are stable or increasing and recruitment has recently been good, the stocks are heavily exploited tending towards overfishing. Expansion of the fishery is not recommended, and further conservation measures may be necessary.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the devolved administrations and *(b)* the EU on lobster conservation; and if he will make a statement. [170921]

**Jonathan Shaw:** DEFRA has regular contact with devolved administrations on shellfish conservation in the course of general exchanges, and formally include them in consultations where conservation of lobsters is concerned. Should strategic developments in lobster conservation measures be considered by any of the administrations there are open channels through which reciprocal impacts on neighbour's fisheries can be considered. No recent discussions have taken place with the EU on this issue.

### Marine Animals

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which marine species in UK waters are in decline; and if he will make a statement. [170888]

**Jonathan Shaw:** Around 6,000 marine species from UK waters (not including overseas territories) were recently assessed under a scientifically-reviewed process to decide which species should be placed on the Biodiversity Action Plan list for the UK. Criterion 3 of this assessment was for those species with a marked decline; i.e. those which have declined by 50 per cent. or more over the past 25 years. The decline may be in relation to population abundance, range or number of occupied sites. Where insufficient data exist, shorter time series have been extrapolated. 16 species were selected using this criterion:

| | *Species* |
|---|---|
| Ammodytes marinus | Lesser sandeel |
| Amphianthus dohrnii | Sea-fan anemone |
| Anotrichium barbatum | Red alga |
| Atrina fragilis | Fan mussel |

| | *Species* |
|---|---|
| Cetorhinus maximus | Basking shark |
| Clavopsella navis | Brackish hydroid |
| Edwardsia timida | Burrowing anemone |
| Haliclystus auricula | Stalked jellyfish |
| Leptopsammia pruvoti | Sunset cup coral |
| Lucernariopsis campanulata | Stalked jellyfish |
| Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis | Stalked jellyfish |
| Merlangius merlangus | Whiting |
| Merluccius merluccius | European hake |
| Osmerus eperlanus | Smelt |
| Ostrea edulis | Native oyster |
| Scomber scombrus | Atlantic mackerel |

### Marine Biodiversity Liaison Group

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what he expects to be the membership composition of the Marine Biodiversity Liaison Group; and if he will make a statement. [170886]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I am not aware of any group called the Marine Biodiversity Liaison Group. However, DEFRA has set up a Marine Biodiversity Stakeholder Group which provides a forum for discussion between DEFRA and its stakeholders. The group's purpose is to provide governmental and non-governmental stakeholders with periodic updates of progress on marine biodiversity policy; all present are given the opportunity to ask questions and contribute to policy development.

Membership of the group is broad and flexible and includes representatives from: Government, the devolved administrations, Government agencies, non-government organisations (for example, the Wildlife Trusts), academic organisations (for example, the Marine Biological Association), marine industry sectors (such as the British Ports Association) and marine recreational sectors (for example the Royal Yachting Association).

### Planning Permission

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many new developments went ahead against Environment Agency advice in 2006-07. [169853]

**Mr. Woolas:** In 2006-07, 110 planning applications were granted against Environment Agency advice. It is not known how many of these proposals have been implemented, as planning permission remains valid for a period of three years before commencement is required.

In this period, local planning authorities reported back to the Agency on the outcome of its objections in 57 per cent. of cases. Only 4 per cent. of these decisions went against the Agency's advice.

### Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which sites he has designated marine protection areas; and if he will make a statement. [170889]

**Jonathan Shaw:** A range of current legislative measures provide protection to important marine species and habitats at key sites. We currently have 151 marine protected areas in UK inshore waters (within 12 nautical miles), which include:

72 special protections areas with marine habitats for birds;

76 special areas of conservation with marine habitats or species, and

three statutory marine nature reserves.

The following list provides the names of these sites.

*Special protection areas with marine components in UK waters*

Aide-Ore Estuary
Bae Caerfyrddin/Carmarthen Bay
Belfast Lough
Benacre to Easton Bavents
Benfleet and Southend Marshes
Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)
Breydon Water
Bridgend Flats, Islay
Burry Inlet
Carlingford Lough
Chesil Beach and The Fleet
Chichester and Langstone Harbours
Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)
Coquet Island
Cromarty Firth
Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)
Deben Estuary
Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1)
Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet
Duddon Estuary
Dungeness to Pett Level
Dyfi Estuary/Aber Dyfi
East Sanday Coast
Exe Estuary
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary
Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5)
Gibraltar Point
Glannau Aberdaron and Ynys Enlli/Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island
Glas Eileanan
Gruinart Flats, Islay
Hamford Water
Humber Estuary
Inner Clyde Estuary
Inner Moray Firth
Killough Bay
Laggan, Islay
Larne Lough
Lindisfarne
Loch of Inch and Torrs Warren
Lough Foyle
Medway Estuary and Marshes
Mersey Estuary
Minsmere-Walberswick
Montrose Basin
Moray and Nairn Coast
Morecambe Bay
North Norfolk Coast

North Uist Machair and Islands
Outer Ards
Pagham Harbour
Poole Harbour
Portsmouth Harbour
Ramsey and St. David's Peninsula Coast
Rathlin Island
Ribble and Alt Estuaries
Severn Estuary
Solent and Southampton Water
South Uist Machair and Lochs
Stour and Orwell Estuaries
Strangford Lough
Tamar Estuaries Complex
Thames Estuary and Marshes
Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay
The Dee Estuary
The Swale
The Wash
Traeth Lafan/Lavan Sands, Conway Bay
Upper Solway flats and Marshes
Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay and The Skerries
Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch

*Special areas of conservation with marine components in UK waters*

Aide, Ore and Butley Estuaries
Ascrib, Isay and Dunvegan
Bae Cemlyn/Cemlyn Bay
Bann Estuary
Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast
Braunton Burrows
Cardigan Bay/Bae Ceredigion
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries/Bae Caerfyrddin ac Aberoedd
Chesil and the Fleet
Culbin Bar
Dee Estuary/Aber Dyfrdwy
Dornoch Firth and Morrich More
Drigg Coast
Dungeness
Eileanan agus Sgeiran Lios mór
Essex Estuaries
Fal and Helford
Faray and Holm of Faray
Firth of Lorn
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary
Flamborough Head
Glannau Môn: Cors heli/Angelsey Coast: Saltmarsh
Humber Estuary
Isle of May
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs
Isles of Scilly Complex
Kenfig/Cynffig
Limestone Coast of South West Wales/Arfordir Calchfaen de Orllewin Cymru
Loch Creran
Loch Moidart and Loch Shiel Woods
Loch nam Madadh
Loch of Stenness
Loch Roag Lagoons
Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs
Luce Bay and Sands
Lundy
Môine Mhór
Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes
Monach Islands
Moray Firth
Morecambe Bay
Mousa
Murlough
North Antrim Coast
North Norfolk Coast
North Rona
North Uist Machair
Obain Loch Euphoirt
Orfordness—Shingle Street
Papa Stour
Pembrokeshire Marine/Sir Benfro Forol
Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau/Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau
Plymouth Sound and Estuaries
Rathlin Island
Sanday
Severn Estuary/Môr Hafren
Sidmouth to West Bay
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons
Solent Maritime
Solway Firth
Sound of Arisaig (Loch Ailort to Loch Ceann Traigh)
South Uist Machair
South Wight Maritime
South-East Islay Skerries
St. Kilda
Strangford Lough
Sullom Voe
Sunart
Thanet Coast
The Vadills
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast
Treshnish Isles
Tweed Estuary
Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/ Menai Strait and Conway Bay
Yell Sound Coast

*Marine nature reserves in UK waters*

Lundy
Skomer
Strangford Loch

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to bring forward a Marine Bill. [170927]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 868W.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Marine Strategy Directive to be implemented. [170929]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The Marine Strategy Directive is currently being negotiated. Implementation will consist of:

(i) transposition

(ii) an initial assessment of the current state of the marine environment

(iii) determination of the characteristics of good environmental status

(iv) the establishment of environmental targets and monitoring programmes, and

(v) the identification and implementation of measures to achieve good environmental status.

The target dates for each of these steps are still being negotiated.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government intends to extend the protected areas of UK seas with marine reserves, as proposed in the draft Marine Bill. [171202]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The proposed Marine Bill will provide the necessary mechanisms to complete our network of marine protected areas (adding to our European sites), by allowing Marine Conservation Zones to be designated for features of national importance.

Our nature conservation agencies are developing a scientific rationale for selecting sites and the design principles for a network of marine protected areas. We are keen to complete the network as soon as possible and have received a commitment from Natural England to enable a designated network of sites by 2012.

### Trapping

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the use of snares. [171221]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government consider that where there is a need for wildlife management then the proper use of snares is one of a range of control methods. Used according to best practice, snares can be an effective and practical means of wildlife management and are needed where other forms of pest control are ineffective or impractical.

The Government are committed to working to improve the legal use of snares. In 2005 DEFRA published its 'Snares Action Plan' and the 'Code of Good Practice on the use of Snares in Fox and Rabbit Control in England'. The DEFRA Code of Good Practice details the legal obligations for people using snares in England and emphasises the importance of weighing the possible risks to the welfare of wildlife against the need to capture pest animals. People choosing to use snares should be aware not only of their responsibilities under the law but also of these guidelines for good practice.

### Water

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will rationalise the structure of those bodies responsible for surface water. [169854]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Government are currently examining approaches to the management of surface water drainage. As part of the upcoming Government Water Strategy, Future Water, due to be published early in 2008, we will review the institutional arrangements for those bodies responsible for surface water. This work will take on board recommendations from Sir Michael Pitt's interim report on the summer's flooding due shortly and the 15 pilot projects we are funding to identify improvements to the management of urban drainage.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Benefits

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people between the ages of *(a)* 18 to 25, *(b)* 25 to 45 and *(c)* 45 to 65 received incapacity benefit by cheque or benefit book in the latest period for which figures are available; [170528]

(2) how many people between the ages of *(a)* 18 to 25, *(b)* 25 to 45 and *(c)* 45 to 65 received jobseeker's allowance payments by cheque or benefit book in the latest period for which figures are available. [170530]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The following table shows the number of people between the ages of *(a)* 18 to 24 *(b)* 25 to 44 and *(c)* 45 to 64 who receive incapacity benefit and jobseeker's allowance payments by cheque.

Benefit books were phased out during 2003 to 2005 under the Payment Modernisation Programme. Direct Payment is now the normal method of payment, and 98 per cent. of our customers are paid this way.

| *Recipients paid by cheque* | *Age 18 to 24* | *Age 25 to 44* | *Age 45 to 64* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Incapacity benefit | 2,690 | 12,480 | 14,230 |
| Jobseeker's allowance | 24,000 | 25,740 | 6,920 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures are taken from the latest available data at 27 October 2007.
3. Figures only relate to accounts live and in payment in Great Britain on the specified date.
4. Incapacity benefit recipients include those receiving passported incapacity benefit (PIB).

*Source:*
DWP, Information Directorate.

### Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Public Appointments

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what costs his Department incurred in recruiting the Chair designate of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [169096]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 87WS. The breakdown of recruitment costs for individual posts is commercially confidential.

## Child Support

**Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in introducing the new child support system; and when the system will apply to all the Child Support Agency's clients. [168919]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The first concrete steps in implementing our reforms have been taken, in the appointment of the Chair designate Janet Paraskeva, and in the announcement at the pre-Budget report of increases to the child maintenance disregard to £20 a week by the end of next year, and to £40 a week from April 2010.

We set out the expected timetable for transition to the new system in the child maintenance White Paper "A new system of child maintenance" box 3.1 on page 54.

The transfer of cases into a single system is expected to start in 2010-11 and take around three years. In 2012-13, all clients will be on a single set of rules managed by a single organisation.

## Child Support Agency

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many uncleared applications are outstanding under the Child Support Agency's operational improvement plan. [167259]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 5 December 2007:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many uncleared applications were outstanding under the Operational Improvement Plan.

The Agency has made significant progress in improving its service to clients and particularly in reducing the number of uncleared applications. In March 2005 there were a total of 319,000 uncleared applications, 226,000 of which were new scheme applications. At the end of September, at the halfway point of the Operational Improvement Plan, the Agency had reduced the number of uncleared applications to 162,000 of which 128,000 were new scheme applications.

Further information can be found in Table 2.1 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons library or at the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_sep07.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful

## Child Support Agency: Complaints

**Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Child Support Agency (CSA) to implement the request by the Independent Case Examiner that the CSA should forward papers relating to the complaint by Mrs. Burton-Mortimer of Ferndown under ICE Ref No. CSA01227/07; and what the reason is for the time taken to respond to this request. [168218]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 5 December 2007:*

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the Child Support Agency (CSA) will implement the request by the Independent Case Examiner that the CSA should forward papers relating to the complaint by Mrs. Burton-Mortimer of Ferndown under ICE Ref No. CSA01227/07; and what the reason is for the time taken to respond to this request. [168218]

As details about individual cases are confidential. I have written to you separately about this case.

## Child Support Agency: ICT

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what planned expenditure is for new information technology systems and support for the Child Maintenance and Enforcements Commission in the first year of its operation. [166358]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The information is not available as the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's expenditure on IT is commercially sensitive.

## Children: Maintenance

**Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who were being dealt with by the Child Support Agency (CSA) but have made voluntary financial agreements and are no longer being dealt with by the CSA in the last five years. [166353]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 5 December 2007:*

In reply to your Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who were being dealt with by the Child Support Agency (CSA) but have made voluntary financial agreements and are no longer being dealt with by the CSA in the last five years. [166353]

Information on the number of cases with Maintenance Direct as their preferred method of collection is provided in the attached table. These cases have been initially assessed by the Child Support Agency and both parents have come to an agreement that maintenance payments will be made directly without the further involvement of the Agency. These cases are still recorded by the Agency, and if their arrangement is not successful they may return to the Agency to have money collected via the Agency's Collection Service.

In addition, some child maintenance applications may have been cancelled or withdrawn as a result of both parents coming to their own arrangements. The reason for a case being cancelled or withdrawn is not held on the Agency's management information, and therefore we cannot provide figures on the number of these cases which go on to make their own voluntary financial arrangement.

It is also possible for parents with care who are not receiving benefit to come to their own arrangement without informing the Agency, meaning they are not recorded as Maintenance Direct cases. The most recent estimate is that there are currently around 500,000 voluntary arrangements in place that are made without any involvement of the Child Support Agency.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

*Number of cases where maintenance is due and Maintenance Direct is the preferred method of collection*

| *Month* | *Maintenance Direct Cases* |
|---|---|
| September 2003 | 89,100 |
| September 2004 | 86,800 |
| September 2005 | 101,700 |
| September 2006 | 125,200 |
| September 2007 | 144,600 |

*Notes:*
[1]Includes all cases where maintenance is due and preferred method of collection is Maintenance Direct.
[2]Figures are rounded to nearest 100.

## Credit Unions

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which credit unions received funding from the Growth Fund in the last round of such funding. [166011]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The following organisations received funding in the latest Growth Fund procurement exercise. Since the Growth Fund began over 100 organisations have been contracted to deliver the Growth Fund affordable lending service.

| *Organisation* | *Location* |
|---|---|
| 1st Alliance Credit Union | Kilwinning, Ayrshire |
| 6 Towns Credit Union | West Bromwich, West Midlands |
| BACUP Credit Union in conjunction with sub contractor: | Bacup Lancashire |
| HHH Credit Union | Rossendale, Lancashire |
| Derby Loans Group Community Development Finance Institution | Rosehill Business Park Derby |
| Derwent & Solway Housing Association (DRAMA) in conjunction with sub contractors: | Workington Cumbria |
| Cleator Moor Credit Union | Cleator Moor |
| Whitehaven Credit Union | Whitehaven, Cumbria |
| Workington Credit Union | Workington, Cumbria |
| Millom Credit Union | Millom, Cumbria |
| Carlisle Credit Union | Carlisle, Cumbria |
| Maryport and North Allerdale Credit Union | Maryport, West Cumbria |
| Erewash Credit Union | Ilkeston, Derbyshire |
| Glasgow Credit Union | Glasgow |
| Ipswich & Suffolk Credit Union in conjunction with sub contractor: | Ipswich Suffolk |
| Norfolk Credit Union | Long Stratten, Norfolk |
| Landsker Credit Union | Narberth, Pembrokeshire |
| Leicester Credit Union | Leicester, East Midlands |
| Manchester Credit Union | Beswick, Manchester |
| Maun Valley Credit Union | Mansfield, Nottinghamshire |
| M for Money Credit Union | Hayes, Middlesex |
| Preston Moneyline Community Development Finance Institution | Preston, Lancashire |
| Riverside Credit Union | Speke, Liverpool |
| Salford Moneyline Community Development Finance Institution | Salford Manchester |
| Sefton Credit Union | Southport, Merseyside |
| South Coast Moneyline Community Development Finance Institution in conjunction with sub contractor: | Portsmouth Hampshire |
| Community First Credit Union | Devizes, Wiltshire |
| Street UK Community Development Finance Institution | Hockley, Birmingham |
| Tees Credit Union | Thornaby, Stockton on Tees |
| Thames Bank Credit Union | Hounslow, Middlesex |
| Unify Credit Union | Wigan, Greater Manchester |

## Departmental Vetting

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Prime Minister's answer of 14 November 2007, on the immigration status of employees, what steps his Department has taken to establish the immigration status of its employees since the Security Industry Authority wrote to employers in August on security clearance. [166102]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The Department for Work and Pensions applies baseline security checks, which include a nationality and immigration status check, to all employees on entry to this Department. The checks form part of our standard recruitment process and are applied to all permanent, fixed term and casual employees.

## Disability Living Allowance

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) under what circumstances elderly people who have received duplicate payments of disability living allowance and attendance allowance are not required to repay the overpayments; [166819]

(2) what mechanisms will be used to determine whether elderly people who have incorrectly received duplicate payments of disability living allowance and attendance allowance knew they were being overpaid; [166820]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of elderly people from whom duplicate payments of disability living allowance and attendance allowance will be recovered; and what value of duplicate payments is expected to be recovered; [166821]

(4) what means will be used to recover duplicate payments of disability living allowance and attendance allowance from elderly people. [166822]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The details of these overpayments were set out in the statement to the House on 15 November 2007.

Given the circumstances of these overpayments, it is extremely unlikely that people would have clearly known that they were being overpaid. Consequently we do not anticipate that the question of recovery will arise in many cases, if at all.

**Mr. Gale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions further to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 505W, what formula is used to calculate each of the levels of disability living allowance. [165978]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The levels of disability living allowance are not calculated using a formula. Entitlement is determined by reference to the extent to which a severely disabled person requires personal care or supervision and/or has walking difficulties as a result of their disability.

There are two rates of mobility component, lower and higher, and three rates of care component, lowest, middle and highest. Further information about entitlement to disability living allowance can be found on the Directgov website at

www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/DG_10011731.

### Government Equalities Office: Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from the Government Equalities Office in each year since 1997; which organisations' staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [168723]

**Barbara Follett:** The Government Equalities Office (GEO) came into existence on 26 July 2007 and became a stand alone Government Department on the 18 October 2007.

Staff transferred to the GEO from the Department of Communities and Local Government under the terms of the Transfer of Functions Order 12 October 2007. There are currently no secondments into, or out of the GEO.

### Incapacity Benefits

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 6-8WS, on next steps to full employment, what his definition is of key out-of-work benefits. [169951]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The key out-of-work benefits for people of working age are: jobseekers allowance; incapacity benefit; severe disablement allowance; income support for lone parents; pension credit for men aged 60 to 64; and other income support cases excluding carers allowance cases.

### Jobseeker's Allowance

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people on jobseeker's allowance who have been away from home *(a)* within the United Kingdom and *(b)* abroad without informing Jobcentre Plus in the last 12 months. [166518]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Jobseeker's allowance (JSA) regulations, which govern the payment of JSA, state that to receive JSA the jobseeker must be in Great Britain. Therefore when a jobseeker goes abroad on holiday JSA is not payable, nor credit of national insurance contributions awarded, for the period they are away.

Holidays taken within Great Britain are allowed provided the jobseeker remains available and actively seeking employment for the duration of the holiday. There is however, a concession within the regulations which allows jobseekers to be treated as actively seeking employment for two weeks in a 12 month period. This needs to be agreed in advance with the Jobcentre before the holiday commences. There is no limit to the number of weeks a jobseeker can be away from home but usually if the holiday exceeds four weeks the Jobcentre would advise the jobseeker to make a claim in the area they are staying in.

Information is not available on how many people failed to notify Jobcentre Plus that they were going on holiday, either in GB or abroad.

**Mr. Rooney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether jobseeker's allowance regulations allow claimants to refuse a job offer if they are unable to find suitable affordable child care; [170278]

(2) whether jobseeker's allowance claimants are exempt from available and actively seeking work requirements *(a)* during school holidays, *(b)* during periods of a child's exclusion from school and *(c)* when a child is sick and unable to attend school. [170281]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* Jobseekers allowance regulations do not allow for the refusal of a job offer by a claimant who is unable to find suitable affordable child care as a prescribed reason.

All jobseekers must be available and actively seeking work to receive jobseeker's allowance. There are easements in regulations that allow for caring responsibilities. These include: changing their pattern of availability during school holidays; limiting availability to a minimum of 16 hours and; being treated as available and actively seeking work if there is a domestic emergency. Each case is judged on its own merit and all the available evidence is considered in reaching a decision.

The impact of these measures and how they can best be tailored to lone parents were considered in our Green Paper "In work, better off: next steps to full employment" and in the subsequent consultation on its proposals. We will be responding to these in our White Paper response.

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Industrial Disputes

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who receive *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefits who would be affected by proposed strikes within his Department. [170532]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 5 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply direct to your question on the number of people receiving (a) Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and (b) Incapacity Benefits (IB) who would be affected by the proposed strikes within his Department. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has robust and proven contingency arrangements in place for continued service to our customers, during periods of industrial action.

I hope this is helpful.

### National Insurance: Foreign Workers

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will institute procedures so that foreign workers have to register with the worker registration scheme before they are issued with a national insurance number. [164063]

**Mr. Plaskitt** *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The Workers Registration Scheme (WRS) was introduced to monitor the impact of A8 migration on the UK labour market. It does not extend to people from the A2 nations or other foreign nationals.

We have no plans to institute procedures so that foreign workers have to register with the WRS before they are issued with a national insurance number (NINO).

NINOs are only issued to foreign workers coming to work in the UK who can prove that they have a right to do so. Many NINO applicants with a legitimate right to work choose to apply for a NINO before starting work—and are able to prove their right to do so using Home Office specified documentary evidence. Early provision of a NINO can facilitate the prompt deduction and recording of tax and national insurance contributions and is advantageous to both the employer and employee.

WRS registration can only take place after an A8 worker finds employment. So, whilst some A8 nationals do register on the WRS before applying for a NINO, it is not a pre-condition to the allocation of a NINO.

### Older Workers

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the percentage of economically active people aged between 50 years and state pension age who *(a)* have a health problem and are educated to degree level or higher, *(b)* have a health problem and are educated to GCSE or A-Level, *(c)* have a health problem and have other or no qualifications, *(d)* do not have a health problem and are educated to degree level or higher, *(e)* who do not have a health problem and are educated to GCSE or A Level and *(f)* who do not have a health problem and who have other or no qualifications. [165078]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is in the following table.

*Proportion of economically active people, aged 50-state pension age, broken down by education attainment and whether they have a long-term health problem*

*Percentage*

| | *Health problem lasting more than 12 months* | *No health problem lasting more than 12 months* |
|---|---|---|
| Degree or higher | 10.0 | 20.3 |
| GCSE or A level | 14.5 | 25.6 |
| Other or no qualification | 11.8 | 17.8 |

*Source:*
Labour Force Survey, quarter 3 2007, using variables 'HIQUAL5D' to assess qualification attainment and 'LNGLIM' which asks whether the respondent has a health problem lasting more than 12 months

The Labour Force Survey is a sample survey covering over 53,000 households in the United Kingdom. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

### Social Security Benefits

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of people aged between 50 and 69 years who were claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* new deal 50 plus and *(c)* new deal 25 plus in (i) spring 2001, (ii) spring 2002, (iii) spring 2003, (iv) spring 2004, (v) spring 2005, (vi) spring 2006 and (vii) spring 2007, broken down by gender. [165079]

**Caroline Flint:** Jobseeker's allowance can be claimed only up to the age of 65 by men and up to the age of 60 by women.

The available information on the percentage of people claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) as a proportion of the working age population aged between 50 and state pension age, broken down by gender, in the requested time series, is in the following table.

*Percentage of people aged 50 to state pension age who were jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants*

| *Month ending May:* | *All* | *Male* | *Female* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 1.1 |
| 2002 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 1.1 |
| 2003 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 1.1 |
| 2004 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 1.0 |
| 2005 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 1.0 |
| 2006 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 1.1 |
| 2007 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.1 |

*Notes:*
1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
2. Percentage population figures have been calculated using the appropriate year apart from 2007 where 2006 population estimates have been used.
*Source:*
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems ONS, Population Estimates Unit.

New deal 25 plus and new deal 50 plus are employment programmes to support people into work, not something which people claim.

People aged 25-59 claiming JSA or national insurance credits for 18 out of last 21 months are mandated to all aspects of new deal 25 plus. Men aged between 60 and state pension age who have been claiming JSA or national insurance (NI) credits for 18 out of the last 21 months are only required to attend the Gateway stage of new deal 25 plus but can volunteer for other aspects of the programme.

A woman cannot be mandated to new deal 25 plus beyond the current female state pension age. Prior to the 1 June 2007, people aged 50 plus who had been claiming JSA or NI credits were mandated to the Gateway stage only of new deal 25 plus. Disadvantaged customers may have early entry to new deal 25 plus at the discretion of their new deal adviser.

New deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme for people who have been claiming a qualifying benefit for at least six months. The programme is also open to those whose partner has been claiming an increase in benefit for them for at least six months.

The available information on the percentage of participants on new deal 25 plus and new deal 50 plus as a proportion of the working age population aged between 50 and state pension age, broken down by gender, in the requested time series, is in the following table.

*Percentage of people aged 50 to state pensions age who were new deal 25 plus and new deal 50 plus participants*

| | New deal 25 plus | | | New deal 50 plus | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *As at May each year* | *Total* | *Male* | *Female* | *Total* | *Male* | *Female* |
| 2001 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | — | — | — |
| 2002 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | — | — | — |
| 2003 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | — | — | — |
| 2004 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| 2005 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| 2006 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.4 |
| 2007 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.5 |

*Notes:*
1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
2. New deal 25 plus started in July 1998; new deal 50 plus started in April 2000.
3. Data on the number of people participating on the new deal 50 plus caseload are only available from January 2004.
4. Age is calculated at the point of joining the programme.
5. Percentage population figures have been calculated using the appropriate year apart from 2007 where 2006 population estimates have been used.
6. Data exclude people above state pension age but people above this age can participate on a voluntary basis on new deal 25 plus and new deal 50 plus providing they are in receipt of the pension credit.
*Source:*
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions ONS, Population Estimates Unit

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rate of increase was of *(a)* the basic state pension, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* incapacity benefit in each year since 1997. [166573]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The answer is in the following table.

*Rate of increase in the basic state pension, jobseeker's allowance and incapacity benefit 1997-2007*

| | Percentage increase over previous rate | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Basic state pension* | *Jobseeker's allowance* | *Incapacity benefit* |
| 1997 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.1 |
| 1998 | 3.6 | 2.4 | 3.6 |
| 1999 | 3.2 | 2.1 | 3.2 |
| 2000 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.1 |
| 2001 | 7.4 | 1.6 | 3.3 |
| 2002 | 4.1 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| 2003 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.7 |
| 2004 | 2.8 | 1.8 | 2.8 |
| 2005 | 3.1 | 1.0 | 3.1 |
| 2006 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 2.7 |
| 2007 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 3.6 |

*Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions Abstract of Statistics 2006 and Uprating Order 2007

### Social Security Benefits: Chronically Sick

**Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of providing financial support to terminally ill people without an estate, next of kin or life insurance to allow them to make personal arrangements for their funerals. [169379]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Department does not provide financial support to people to assist them in making arrangements for their own funerals. The purpose of the funeral payment scheme is to assist the person who has taken responsibility for arranging the funeral where the person who has died has not made provision. Although the scheme is kept under review there are no plans to make fundamental changes to the Funeral Payments scheme to provide financial assistance to people for arranging their own funeral.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on Africa: peacekeeping operations, when the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations will complete its pre-deployment assessment for the UN-African Union peacekeeping mission to Darfur. [169909]

**Meg Munn:** The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) is carrying out pre-deployment assessment visits in November and December to countries that have offered troops. We understand that the visits will be completed by 5 December and that the DPKO will prepare reports for further consultation with the countries concerned.

### Bosnia: Embassies

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are for the Office of High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina to be closed and its responsibilities and authorities, including the Bonn powers, to be fully transferred to the EU and exercised through the EUSR. [170325]

**David Miliband:** The Peace Implementation Committee (PIC) Steering Board, of which the UK is a member, has stated that the Office of the High Representative (OHR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) will remain in place and continue to carry out its mandate under the Dayton Peace Agreement. While the aim of the PIC is OHR closure by 30 June 2008, this will clearly need to be reviewed in light of the situation on the ground and, in particular, whether BiH's political leaders are overcoming ethnic divisions and history to move BiH forward. The PIC will review the situation again at its meeting in February 2008.

### Bosnia: Politics and Government

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress made in *(a)* (i) police, (ii) military and (iii) judicial reform, *(b)* disarmament, *(c)* refugee return, *(d)* human rights guarantees and *(e)* protection of cultural and religious monuments in Bosnia-Herzegovina since the Dayton Peace Accords in November 1995. [170774]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Over the last 12 years there has been significant progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). There has been a transition from conflict to stability; free elections held across the country on seven occasions; over 1 million returns of refugees and internally displaced persons; membership of the Partnership For Peace; and significant defence reforms. Nonetheless, important challenges remain, including in the areas highlighted in the hon. Member's question.

BiH urgently needs to bring its policing into line with European and international standards. This is essential if the country is to establish and maintain the rule of law. The EU police mission refocused its priorities in early 2006 to concentrate on the process of police reform and building capacity to tackle organised crime. Agreement on police restructuring is a key condition for the conclusion of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU. The politicisation of the police reform issue has obstructed the work of the Directorate for Police Restructuring and thus far prevented agreement on a way forward. The UK remains closely involved in trying to facilitate cross party political agreement. Progress on judicial reform has been reasonable, but implementation of a National Justice Sector Reform Strategy remains a priority. Defence reform is progressing well.

BiH continues to make mixed progress on human rights. There is still a need to resolve outstanding issues from the 1992-95 conflict and ensure the sustainable return of displaced persons. BiH's co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia improved in 2007. The Republika Srpska authorities assisted in the arrest of Zdravko Tolimir (one of the six high-profile indictees who remained at large at the start of 2007, wanted for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity) in May 2007. BiH has established a State Commission for the Preservation of National monuments. The UK supported the building of a memorial room near the site of the Srebrenica massacre, which opened in July 2007. We hope this will serve as a moving memorial to the victims.

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* political and *(b)* security situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [171233]

**David Miliband** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* We have been concerned over the recent deterioration of the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and in particular the increased level of ethnic nationalistic political rhetoric. We are urging politicians from all sides to ensure the efficient operation of state institutions and to take forward reforms which are necessary for BiH and its EU perspective. We fully support High Representative Lajcak and have also been urging all parties to uphold their obligations to respect and implement his decisions. Despite recent political tensions the security situation within BiH remains stable.

### British Overseas Territories: Nature Conservation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government intends to take to attempt to increase the number of critically endangered animal species in UK Overseas Territories. [171208]

**Meg Munn:** The Government recognise the importance of protecting endangered species in the Overseas Territories and is working with the Overseas Territories to achieve this, through funding for programmes and projects and the provision of technical support.

There are a number of Government funded programmes that contribute to the protection of endangered species in the Overseas Territories. Programmes include:

The Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development funded programme, makes available approximately £1 million a year to assist the Overseas Territories with the implementation of their Environment Charters. The Charters include a list of commitments agreed by the Government and individual Overseas Territory governments to support sustainable use of environmental resources in the Overseas Territories. Among these are the protection and restoration of key habitats and species and support for general environmental management including protection of endangered species. OTEP has funded a feasibility study on Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island on the eradication of rodents to safeguard the Albatross and the Gough Bunting. The results of the study are expected in March 2008. Funding has also been provided this year to produce a management plan for Steeple Jason Island in the Falkland Islands aimed at better management and protection of Albatross and Petrels from outside influences including visitors and non-native invasive plants and animals.

The Darwin Initiative is a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) funded programme that contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of the world's biodiversity, including protection of endangered species. UK experts work with local communities and organisations to help countries rich in biodiversity but who, through lack of resources, are unable to meet their obligations under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The Initiative has funded 13 projects totalling around £1.5 million in the Overseas Territories since it was launched in 1992. Projects have included the Montserrat Centre Hills and the Cayman Island "In Ivan's Wake" projects to put in place measures and legislation to protect and safeguard their native flora and fauna and endangered species.

DEFRA also pay an annual subscription of £36,000 to the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP) Secretariat. DEFRA has also agreed to co-fund, with OTEP and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the establishment of an ACAP Co-ordinator for the Falkland Islands and the South Atlantic Overseas Territories. The co-ordinator will be responsible for ensuring up to date information concerning Albatross and Petrel populations in the South Atlantic Overseas Territories is fed into the ACAP Secretariat for dissemination to other interested parties.

The Flagship Species Fund, administered by Fauna and Flora International, an international conservation charity supported by DEFRA has made approximately £100,000 a year available since 2002 to provide practical support for the conservation of endangered species and their habitats in developing countries, including in the Overseas Territories. The Flagship Species Fund provided £21,800 to support a project to eradicate rodents on Eagle Island in the British Indian Ocean Territory to safeguard native birds and turtles. DEFRA has allocated £75,000 to the Flagship Species Fund for 2008-09.

### Cuba: Politics and Government

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* level of corruption, *(b)* human rights situation and *(c)* government policy on homosexuality in Cuba. [169818]

**Meg Munn:** Our assessment reveals that respect for human rights falls far below international standards. Of particular concern to us are the high numbers of political prisoners, violation of civil, political and economic rights and continued government repression of dissidents. Further information on our views of the human rights situation can be found in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual human rights report. A copy of the most recent report can be found in the Library of the House.

Transparency International rated Cuba 10 out of 32 in the Americas in its 2007 corruption survey. The Cuban government is aware of the risks of corruption and take active measures to counter it. The Government supports this aim and indeed a Government representative attended an international anti-corruption conference in Havana in November 2007.

Our assessment of Cuban government policy on homosexuality is positive overall. The Cuban National Center for Sex Education is a government funded body which advocates tolerance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues on the island and which has recently proposed legislation on some of these issues.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions on security and long-term stability took place at the recent meeting in Washington of the Great Lakes Contact Group. [169903]

**Meg Munn:** The International Contact Group on the Great Lakes met on 16 November. Topics for discussion included: the international community's response to the communiqué signed in Nairobi on 9 November by the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda and support for those countries in fulfilling their commitments; strategies to defeat the armed groups operating in eastern DRC; the renewal of the mandate for the UN peacekeeping force; security sector reform in DRC; and the UN arms embargo on DRC. All of these issues directly affect security and stability in the Great Lakes region.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking in co-operation with their EU partners to prevent an escalation of conflict in the Great Lakes region of the Democratic Republic of Congo following the ACP-EU joint parliamentary meeting earlier this month. [169904]

**Meg Munn:** The UK and our partners have regularly urged the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda to find a political solution to the conflict in eastern DRC. The EU's special representative was involved in the negotiations which led to the joint DRC-Rwandan communiqué signed in Nairobi on 9 November, a potentially important step towards peace in the region. The DRC has agreed to produce a detailed plan of action for both countries to follow on 1 December. We, and our international partners, will encourage them to fulfil the commitments they make.

The African, Caribbean and pacific-EU joint parliamentary meeting resulted in a resolution urging that those guilty of atrocities in eastern DRC be held to account for their actions. EU ambassadors have recently lobbied the DRC Minster for Foreign Affairs to ask for proceedings relating to the death of the human rights defender Serge Maheshe to resume. The EU also leads a project to promote reform of the security sector in DRC. One of its aims is to improve discipline and accountability among members of the armed forces. The UK is active on the issue of sexual violence in DRC, and staff from our Embassy and the Department for International Development office in Kinshasá have lobbied the government and carried out other initiatives targeted at this problem, including work to promote justice and reduce impunity.

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the security situation in the North Kivu

Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [169905]

**Meg Munn:** The Government are gravely concerned at the situation in North Kivu, which has severe humanitarian consequences, hinders development and has the potential to undermine peace and stability in the region. It has led to around 375,000 people being displaced since December 2006 and a widespread problem of brutal sexual violence and other atrocities.

The UK is committed to finding a lasting solution to the violence. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, and other Ministers have spoken with President Kabila recently, urging the Congolese Government to continue to look for a political solution to the problems affecting the east of the country. We are closely engaged with our international partners in efforts to bring the violence to an end.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169215]

**Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 requiring investigation there have been in the last five years in his Department; what the nature of such breaches were; and what the results of the investigations were in each case. [169258]

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [170253]

**Meg Munn:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Visits Abroad

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for Ministers overseas in the last year. [171341]

**Meg Munn:** Details of the cost of overseas travel, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the "Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers" list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007. Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

### Embassies

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is his policy that the Office of the High Representative and the related Bonn powers should continue in their present form beyond June 2008. [170328]

**David Miliband:** The Peace Implementation Committee (PIC) Steering Board, of which the UK is a member, has stated that the Office of the High Representative (OHR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) will remain in place and continue to carry out its mandate under the Dayton Peace Agreement. While the aim of the PIC is OHR closure by 30 June 2008, this will clearly need to be reviewed in light of the situation on the ground and, in particular, whether BiH's political leaders are overcoming ethnic divisions and history to move BiH forward. The PIC will review the situation again at its meeting in February 2008.

### Entry Clearances

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of removing the requirement for interviews by entry clearance officers of visa applicants on UK security; and if he will make a statement. [169119]

**Meg Munn:** There has never been a requirement to interview all visa applicants. The entry clearance officer may call an applicant for an interview based on a risk assessment of the case. All applications are subject to rigorous scrutiny based on risk profiling, document verification and the use of information, to give us a robust control.

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints his Department has received about the visa application services provided by Worldbridge Services. [169330]

**Meg Munn:** The following table displays the total number of complaints recorded by UKvisas, on their Overseas Complaints Register, about the visa application services provided by WorldBridge Services from 1 July to 30 September 2007 (the first Visa Application Centres provided by WorldBridge Services commenced operations on 1 July 2007).

| *Visa Application Centres (VACs)* | *Complaints* |
|---|---|
| Algiers | 0 |
| Amman | 0 |
| Belgrade | 0 |
| Cairo (includes a micro VAC in Alexandria) | 1 |
| Dusseldorf (includes micro VACs in Berlin and Munich) | 29 |
| Geneva (includes a micro VAC in Zurich) | 8 |
| Kingston | 3 |
| Paris (includes micro VACs in Bordeaux and Marseille) | 3 |
| Rome | 4 |
| Rio de Janeiro (includes micro VACs in Sao Paulo and Brasilia) | 0 |

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* target time and *(b)* average time was for the processing of visa applications provided by Worldbridge Services in the latest period for which figures are available. [169331]

**Meg Munn:** The UKvisas commercial partner, WorldBridge Services, is required to process all visa applications submitted to their visa application centres (VACs) on the day of receipt. WorldBridge Services must then deliver these applications to UK visa sections overnight, between close of play on the day of receipt and the opening for business of the UK visa sections the following working day. WorldBridge Services are meeting this contractual commitment 99 per cent. of the time.

The average time WorldBridge Services takes to collect the required biometrics from an applicant at one of their VACs and to process their application is 48 minutes. The average time taken for the whole visa application process for applicants using a VAC administered by WorldBridge Services is 5.6 days. This starts from the time the applicant books an appointment at the VAC to the return of their documents once their application has been assessed.

### European Union: Defence

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on a defence capabilities charter for the EU. [169466]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in the House on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1096W our objective is to enhance the separate defence capabilities of European nations. We are therefore encouraging partners to develop the deployable, interoperable and sustainable forces required for current and likely future operations. These capabilities would be available for, and enhance, collective multilateral crisis interventions, including those delivered through the EU, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation or the UN.

### Gabon: Diplomatic Service

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will appoint a UK Honorary Consul to Gabon in order to *(a)* represent UK interests and *(b)* provide consular services. [169856]

**Meg Munn:** The UK's Honorary Consul to Gabon, David Harwood, has been in post since May 1996. (Further details are available on the website for our High Commission in Yaounde: www.briteam.org).

Honorary Consuls are primarily appointed to help provide an accessible and responsive service to British nationals abroad, particularly in difficult to reach locations. They provide information and assistance to British nationals who get into difficulties overseas and can play a commercial role, depending on local circumstances, their expertise and the requirements of the High Commissioner.

### Gaza: Airports

**Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had on the Yasser Arafat International Airport in the Gaza Strip on his recent visit to the Middle East. [169418]

**Meg Munn:** My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not discuss the Yasser Arafat International Airport during his recent visit to Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Egypt from 17-20 November.

Under the UK presidency, the EU led in negotiations with the parties and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, to agree the Agreement on Movement and Access which was signed by Israel and the Palestinian Authority in November 2005. Discussions on the airport form part of the agreement which has stalled following the election of Hamas in January 2006. The Government continue to call on both the Israelis and the Palestinians to implement the agreement.

At this difficult time in Gaza the urgent priorities are to ensure sufficient and regular supplies to meet the basic needs of Gaza's 1.4 million people and to re-open external trade. However, in the longer term, establishing reliable access to the outside world will be essential for sustainable economic development, poverty reduction and a viable Palestinian state.

### Gaza: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to try to increase the amount of UN humanitarian aid in food and medicines being made available to the people of Gaza. [170723]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government remain deeply concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza. My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development made a statement on 30 October detailing our concerns. The full text of the statement can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1193597605085&year=2007&month=2007-10-01

There is a pressing need to overcome the obstacles to re-opening Gaza's crossings, for humanitarian goods, trade and people. The UN Secretary-General is focussed on this issue and we are supporting his efforts. The EU has called

"on all parties to work towards an opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza".

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the humanitarian situation in Gaza with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni, during his 17-20 November visit to the region.

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to press for more people, food and medicines to be enabled on humanitarian grounds to pass through the crossing points out of and into Gaza. [170724]

**Dr. Howells:** I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today (UIN 170723).

### Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the operating costs were of the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee

for the Purchase of Wine in 2006-07; and how many full-time equivalent staff support the committee. [171453]

**Meg Munn:** The operating costs of the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine amounted to approximately £8,024 for financial year 2006-07. One Foreign and Commonwealth Office official, the Head of Government Hospitality, is Secretary to the Committee, spending approximately 10 to 15 per cent. of their time on support for the Committee and managing the Government cellar.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for his Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170507]

**Meg Munn:** There are no cases of which we are aware of illegal immigrants who have been discovered working for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the last year. There is one individual currently being investigated by the police relating to a previous period.

### Indian Subcontinent: Nuclear Disarmament

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what forum he expects to discuss a framework for nuclear disarmament with *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan and *(c)* Israel; and if he will make a statement. [169362]

**Meg Munn:** The United Kingdom discusses nuclear disarmament with India, Pakistan and Israel in various fora, including the Conference for Disarmament in Geneva and at the UN. We also attach great importance to the universalisation of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and continue to call on all three states to join the treaty as non-nuclear weapon states.

### Iran: Human Rights

**Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of Iran's human rights record, with particular reference to the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; and if he will hold discussions with his international counterparts to seek an end to persecution on the grounds of sexuality in Iran. [170287]

**Dr. Howells:** I am deeply concerned by Iran's deteriorating human rights record. On 20 November, in a powerful demonstration of international concern, the UN General Assembly's Third Committee voted in favour of a resolution—co-sponsored by the EU—expressing deep concern at the human rights situation in Iran. We remain concerned about the treatment of all minority groups in Iran, including discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. Homosexuality is illegal by law and the death penalty remains on the books for consenting same sex relations, but we are not aware of any executions for this in recent years. However, the situation for transgender individuals is more positive: Iran has the second highest number of sex-change operations in the world and government grants are available for operations and hormone therapy.

Disappointingly, Iran has persistently refused to engage in a human rights dialogue with the EU and has failed to address international concerns about human rights in Iran. But we continue to work hard with international partners to urge Iran to fulfil its human rights commitments and to improve their human rights record.

### Iraq: Foreign Workers

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 363W, on Iraq: foreign workers, how many third country nationals are eligible to receive a package of financial payment to aid resettlement; and if he will make a statement. [169578]

**Dr. Howells:** Third country nationals are not eligible for any of the forms of assistance set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30-33WS which are offered to Iraqi nationals only.

### Israel: Travel Restrictions

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Israel on their refusal last month of permission to Raji Sourani, Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, to travel to meet Tony Blair. [170722]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government have made no representation to the Government of Israel on this issue. We have repeatedly raised our concerns about movement and access with the Government of Israel. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this issue on his recent visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 17 and 19 November.

### Kosovo

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his Serbian counterpart on statements by Prime Minister Kostunica linking a Kosovo settlement to the future of the entity of Republika Sprska. [170326]

**David Miliband:** I discussed regional security issues, including Kosovo, with my Serbian counterpart in London on 5 December. Our ambassador in Belgrade, together with representatives of the Embassies of the United States, France, Germany and Italy, met with the Serb Foreign Minister Jeremic to register our concern about the statements made by Prime Minister Kostunica linking a Kosovo settlement to the future of the Republika Sprska. We, along with other EU and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation countries, have made it clear to the Serbian authorities that such statements are not conducive to stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Sir Malcolm Rifkind:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which provisions of UN Resolution 1244 on Kosovo permit the formation of an independent Kosovo. [170409]

**Meg Munn:** UN Security Council Resolution 1244 leaves Kosovo within Serbia pending the outcome of a political process to determine Kosovo's final status. The nature of that outcome is not constrained in any way by Security Council Resolution 1244.

### Languages

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his staff are receiving language training under the new outsourcing arrangement after the closure of his Department's Diplomatic Service Language Centre on 2 October, broken down by language taught. [170322]

**David Miliband:** The new outsourcing arrangement came into effect on 6 November. Since then 11 Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff have been trained under the new arrangements. The details are provided as follows:

| *Language* | *Number of staff* |
|---|---|
| French | 6 |
| Thai | 1 |
| Mandarin | 2 |
| Korean | 1 |
| Japanese | 1 |

### Morocco: Entry Clearances

**Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the target processing time is for non-straightforward visa applications for Moroccan nationals; and what the average processing time was for such applications in the last 12 months. [169576]

**Meg Munn:** Non-settlement visa applications are categorised as straightforward or non-straightforward. The UKvisas public service agreement (PSA) target is 90 per cent. of non-settlement applications requiring further inquiries (i.e. non-straightforward applications) to be processed within 15 working days.

The average processing time of these applications for Moroccan nationals in the last 12 months for which figures are available (October 2006 to October 2007) was eight working days.

Settlement visas are not categorised as straightforward or non-straightforward. The PSA target for these applications is assessment or interview within 12 weeks.

### Russia: Elections

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British election monitors will be in Russia to monitor the forthcoming Parliamentary elections representing *(a)* the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and *(b)* the Council of Europe; and if he will make a statement. [170447]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* There were no election monitors from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) specialist election monitoring agency, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, present during the parliamentary elections. Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly did observe the election, but no British parliamentarians were among them. 51 members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, including three British parliamentarians, also observed the election.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the treatment of the opposition parties in Russia in the run up to the Russian Parliamentary elections. [170450]

**Mr. Jim Murphy** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* In line with the EU presidency's statement on 27 November, which expressed concern at Russia's heavy-handed action towards those taking part in rallies against the Russian Government, the Government consider that the right to peaceful protest and adherence to the rule of law are two vitally important components of any democratic process. We hope that all parties concerned will continue to bear these principles in mind in the run-up to the presidential elections.

### Russia: Fascism

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the prevalence of the neo-Nazi movement in Russia. [169248]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Racism and xenophobia are of growing concern in Russia. Neo-Nazi banners were displayed during the recent nationalist marches on the Day of National Unity. According to the Moscow Human Rights Bureau, more than 170 xenophobia-related attacks and conflicts were registered in the Russian Federation in the first nine months of 2007, resulting in the deaths of 51 people.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) supports projects worth more than £120,000, designed to address religious and ethnic discrimination in Russia, including strengthening the capacities of state officials, law enforcement officers, human rights non-governmental organisations, ethnic communities, and mass media to combat xenophobia, extremism and ethnic conflicts.

The most recent FCO annual report on human rights covers our concerns on racism and xenophobia in Russia in detail. We discussed ethnic tension and racism with the Russian Government during the most recent UK-Russia bilateral human rights consultations.

### Seychelles: Capital Punishment

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Seychelles Government on the recent United Nations General Assembly resolution vote on the death penalty moratorium. [170861]

**Meg Munn:** In November 2007 we, through our high commission in Victoria, lobbied the Seychelles Government to support the draft resolution and act as a co-sponsor. The resolution was subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly Third Committee on 15 November. Ultimately, the Seychelles did not act as co-sponsor, or indeed vote, and our high commissioner will take this up with the Seychelles Government.

### Somalia: Politics and Government

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Somalia, with particular regard to the length of time Ethiopian forces are expected to remain there. [170101]

**Meg Munn:** The appointment of new Prime Minister, Nur Hassan Hussein on 24 November has given new hope and a renewed opportunity for the Somali Government to pursue political reconciliation and a peaceful future for their country by implementing the conclusions of the National Reconciliation Congress and delivering a new constitution and elections, as part of the transitional process.

The UK will work with the Somali President and Prime Minister, the UN special representative of the Secretary-General, the International Contact Group, the European Union and the UN Security Council to help the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to successfully deliver the transitional period.

The presence of Ethiopian troops in Somalia continues due to ongoing insurgency against the Government. Ethiopia has said that it wants to withdraw from Somalia as soon as it is possible to do so without leaving a security vacuum. The UK believes that progress on political reconciliation will improve the security situation and enable Ethiopian withdrawal to take place.

### Sudan: Aviation

**Mr. Austin Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the feasibility of establishing and *(b)* the means of enforcing a no-fly zone over Darfur, Sudan; what his policy is on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [169106]

**Meg Munn:** We are working with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the African Union, the Government of Sudan and international partners for the prompt deployment of an effective UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) to improve stability and security in the region. This has been the priority since UN Security Council Resolution 1769 was passed on 31 July mandating the UNAMID force.

Among other activities, we hope that UNAMID will improve monitoring of military activity in Darfur. Before considering any additional measures, we would need to assess the logistical challenges of implementation and their impact on humanitarian efforts.

We welcome the recent cessation of hostilities that the Government of Sudan announced at the start of peace talks on 27 October. We are pressing all parties to sign up to a cessation of hostilities with immediate effect and to engage on the peace process.

### Sudan: Law

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the application of Sharia law to *(a)* Christians and *(b)* foreigners in Sudan. [170102]

**Meg Munn:** The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of January 2005 stipulates that Sharia law does not apply in Southern Sudan. Under the terms of the CPA, a commission has been set up to protect the rights of non-Muslims in the national capital, Khartoum, where there is a concentration of migrants from Southern Sudan.

The UK is monitoring this issue closely because of reports that non-Muslims have been subject to arrest for not complying with Sharia law. The right to religious freedom is enshrined in the Interim National Constitution of Sudan, which came into force in 2005.

### Sudan: Peace Negotiations

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to encourage rebel groups to implement a ceasefire and engage in the negotiation of a political settlement to the conflict in Darfur, Sudan. [169109]

**Meg Munn:** We have spoken to those rebels who attended the start of Darfur peace talks in Libya on 27 October and the representatives of the key rebel movements based in the UK making clear the importance we attach to rebel unification and participation in the political process. The UK has committed £1 million to support the African Union (AU) and UN Joint Mediation Support Team, which is currently focused on encouraging the rebel movements to unify further and agree on common platforms.

The UK welcomed the government of Sudan's announcement of a cessation of hostilities at the start of the talks, which must be extended now to rebels and honoured by all parties to the conflict. The UK is supporting the AU/UN to ensure that any new cessation of hostilities agreement can be effectively monitored on the ground. Only a political process can provide a sustainable solution to the Darfur conflict.

### Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking in co-operation with their international partners to ensure that all rebel group leaders in Darfur attend the next set of peace progress negotiations. [169902]

**Meg Munn:** The UK is supporting the African Union and UN-led Darfur political process. This mediation effort is currently focused on encouraging the rebel movements to unify further and agree on common platforms ahead of negotiations. Along with our international partners, including the US and France, we have pressed the rebel movements to engage

fully in the political process and agree to a cessation of hostilities. We have made clear publicly and directly to the rebel movements that there will be consequences for any party that seeks to obstruct the political process.

### Vietnam: Oppression

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Vietnamese Government on the arrest of more than 40 democracy activists, opposition party members and union leaders in Vietnam during the last 15 months. [170859]

**Meg Munn:** We are concerned at the arrest and sentencing of several peaceful human rights defenders in Vietnam who have been charged with 'conducting propaganda' against the state. We, along with our EU partners, have made numerous representations to the Vietnamese authorities on this issue.

On 15 May, the EU issued a statement expressing its concern about the current situation and calling on the Vietnamese Government to release all non-violent political activists who have simply exercised their rights to freedom of expression and association.

I raised our concerns on human rights with the Vietnamese Foreign Minister at the Association of South East Asian Nations summit in Singapore on 23 November and with the Deputy Foreign Minister during his visit to London on 29 November. Additionally, I raised the issue with the Vietnamese ambassador on 9 October and with the chargé d'affaires on 25 July. My right hon. Friend the then Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs (Mr. McCartney) raised our concerns with the Vietnamese Vice-Minister Le Cung Phung during the EU/Association of South East Asian Nations Ministerial meeting in Nuremburg on 14-15 March. He also raised the issue with the Vietnamese ambassador on 10 May.

We will continue to raise the question of human rights defenders, along with other human rights issues, with the Vietnamese Government, including during the EU's human rights dialogue with the Vietnamese Government, which will next take place on 19 December.

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Vietnamese Government on the imprisonment of human rights lawyers Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan. [170860]

**Meg Munn:** We, along with our EU partners, have made numerous representations to the Vietnamese Government on the arrest and sentencing of lawyers Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan.

The EU conducted a démarche on the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 9 March 2007, following the arrest of Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan. International representatives, including the UK, attended their trial as observers on 11 May and their appeal trial on 27 November. On 15 May, the EU issued a statement expressing its concern and calling on the Vietnamese Government to release all non-violent political activists, including Nguyen Van Dai and Le Thi Cong Nhan, who have exercised their rights to freedom of expression and association. This issue was also raised during the six-monthly EU/Vietnam human rights dialogue on 28 June.

I raised our concerns on human rights with the Vietnamese Foreign Minister at the Association of South East Asian Nations summit in Singapore on 23 November and with the Deputy Foreign Minister during his visit to London on 29 November. Additionally, I raised the issue with the Vietnamese ambassador on 9 October and with the chargé d'affaires on 25 July.

We will continue to raise the question of human rights defenders, along with other human rights issues, with the Vietnamese Government, including during the EU's human rights dialogue with the Vietnamese Government, which will next take place on 19 December.

## HEALTH

### Antibiotics: Hospitals

**Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what benchmarking is used by his Department to establish comparative levels of usage of antibiotics in hospitals across the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [170262]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Department does not hold data centrally to benchmark and compare antibiotic usage in national health service hospitals. However, the expert Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections is investigating the availability and utility of hospital prescribing data for benchmarking and other purposes.

### Asthma: Research

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government has allocated to research into asthma since 1997. [170095]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. During this time, the Department has also funded research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the NHS. Total reported expenditure on asthma by research active NHS organisations and similar expenditure by the Department's national research programmes, is shown in the following table.

*£ million*

| | *Respiratory disease, including asthma, 2* | *Asthma* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | n/a | 0.2 |
| 1998-99 | n/a | 0.2 |
| 1999-2000 | n/a | 0.9 |
| 2000-01 | n/a | 0.1 |
| 2001-02 | n/a | 0.6 |
| 2002-03 | 24.5 | 0.6 |
| 2003-04 | 30.7 | 0.8 |
| 2004-05 | 31.2 | 0.7 |
| 2005-06 | 32.0 | 0.4 |
| 2006-07 | 33.3 | 0.4 |

n/a = Not available

In addition, a national research and development programme on asthma management ran from 1996 to early 2004 and supported a total of 33 projects throughout the United Kingdom at a total cost of £4.9 million.

The Department funds personal award schemes to support the training of promising researchers. Since 1997 some nine awards have been made to individuals working in areas focused on, or related to, asthma at a total cost of £3.2 million.

Implementation of the Department's research strategy Best Research for Best Health has resulted in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. The Guy's and St. Thomas'/Kings College London Biomedical Research Centre, formed this year, will for example undertake research on asthma and allergy and has been allocated a budget of £4.75 million over five years for that purpose. The Research for Patient Benefit programme meanwhile will fund four new projects on asthma at a cost of £0.5 million.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant in aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Available MRC spend figures for research on asthma are as follows:

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 2.9 |
| 2001-02 | 3.0 |
| 2002-03 | 2.8 |
| 2003-04 | 2.8 |
| 2004-05 | 2.6 |
| 2005-06 | 2.4 |

[1]. Expenditure data were not collected centrally from NHS research active organisations prior to 2002.

[2] Research active NHS organisations' annual research and development reports identify expenditure in some 16 national priority areas, including respiratory disease. Those reports do not include separate details of expenditure on asthma research.

*Note:*

Earlier comparable figures are not available.

### Bridlington Hospital: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects Bridlington hospital to receive its deep clean. [165098]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* As the Prime Minister made clear, deep cleaning will occur in all hospitals, starting this winter, with resources allocated through the strategic health authorities (SHAs). All trusts will submit costed deep clean plans to their lead commissioners who will monitor performance against this plan, as per normal performance management arrangements, and SHAs will take an overview as to progress across their area. Trusts are aiming to complete all deep cleans by the end of March 2008. SHAs will be expected to report on implementation across their regions to the Department.

### Childbirth

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency transfers there were from *(a)* midwife-led maternity units and *(b)* home births to consultant-led units in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [165446]

**Alan Keen:** This information is not collected. The Department has commissioned the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit to undertake a study entitled 'Birthplace'. This study will include data on the intended place of birth at the onset of labour and the actual place of birth. This will provide data on the number of women transferring during labour. Results of this study are expected towards the end of 2009.

### Community Hospitals

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which community hospitals closed in 2007; how many are planned to close in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [171175]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* Figures are not collected centrally. Decisions about the organisation of local health care services are taken at a local level. Primary care trusts are best placed to make decisions about the make-up of local hospital, community and primary care facilities. In 2006 the Government announced £750 million capital programme for new community hospitals and other community sources.

### Deep Clean

**Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Eastbourne district general hospital will receive its deep clean. [165336]

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how often Queen's hospital, Romford, will be subject to a deep clean; and when the first such clean will take place. [167286]

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects *(a)* Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth hospital, Woolwich, *(c)* Darenth Valley hospital, Dartford and *(d)* Princess Royal hospital, Farnborough to receive deep cleans. [167478]

**Ann Keen:** As the Prime Minister made clear, deep cleaning will occur in all hospitals, starting this winter, with resources allocated through the strategic health authorities (SHAs). All trusts will submit costed deep clean plans to their lead commissioners who will monitor performance against this plan, as per normal performance management arrangements, and SHAs will take an overview as to progress across their area. Trusts are aiming to complete all deep cleans by the end of March 2008. SHAs will be expected to report on implementation across their regions to the Department.

### Dementia

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to assist the families of people with dementia since 1997. [170975]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* Policy on older people's mental health, which includes dementia, has been developing since 1997. The publication of the "National Service Framework for Older People" in 2001, which contained a service model for dementia care, marked the first key milestone in policy development on older people's mental health. This was followed in 2005, by the publication of our service development guide, "Everybody's Business", the launch of the Let's Respect campaign in 2006, and also, in 2006, the Quality and Outcomes framework incentive which rewards general practitioner practices for maintaining a register of patients diagnosed with dementia.

The Government announced, on 6 August, the development of a new national dementia strategy, which will help to improve services for people with dementia and their families. The strategy will focus on three key themes, which are improving awareness, early diagnosis and intervention as well as improving the quality of care for people with dementia.

The first product of the Strategy work programme, "Strengthening the Involvement of People with Dementia: a resource for implementation" was published on 27 November. This toolkit is designed to support practitioners and commissioners to positively engage with people who have dementia, as well as helping people who have dementia, and their carers, to understand how they can become more involved in the planning and delivery of their care.

### Drugs: Misuse

**Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response he has made to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction's 2007 Annual Report, "The State of the Drug Problems in Europe"; and if he will make a statement. [168646]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Government welcomed the publication of the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) Annual Report on 22 November 2007.

They also welcome the report as an excellent example of what can be gained by European countries working in partnership in tackling the harms associated with drug misuse.

The report reflects the United Kingdom's success in increasing the numbers of people in drug treatment, with the associated benefits that follow for individuals, their families and the wider community.

In looking forward the report highlights the need for continued vigilance in particular areas, including the transmission of infectious diseases among drug users. This is an issue on which the UK is already undertaking specific programmes of work to improve the position and we are pleased that more recent data than that within the EMCDDA Report, published by the Health Protection Agency in October this year shows progress, particularly in the proportion of injecting drug users contracting HIV.

The report also refers to the outcome studies being undertaken in the UK to ensure that treatment is being delivered on the foundation of an established evidence base so that it can be as effective as possible.

### Health Services: Foreigners

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many EU nationals were treated by the NHS in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [170655]

**Dawn Primarolo:** It is not possible to provide the information requested. Successive Governments have not required the national health service to provide statistics on the number of foreign nationals, including those from European Union member states, seen, treated or charged under the provisions of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended.

### Health Services: Regulation

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he proposes to take to take account of the views of the public and patients in the enhancing confidence in professional health care regulation process. [171366]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* We are proposing an event specifically for patient and public representatives in new year 2008 once all of the working groups have met. The purpose of the event will be to present the programme as a whole to representatives and to seek their feedback. This is in addition to the continuing involvement of patient and public representatives in the working groups and the National Advisory Group meeting. We are also planning to increase the number of public and patient representatives at the next National Advisory Group meeting.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual budget will be for the new health and social care regulator in its first year of operation. [171668]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Subject to parliamentary approval of the Health and Social Care Bill, the exact budget for the new health and social care regulator, the Care Quality Commission, in its first year of operation will be confirmed next year, but will be in the region of £155 million-£160 million.

### Healthcare Commission: Commission for Social Care Inspection

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the projected *(a)* cost and *(b)* timescale is for carrying out the merger of the Healthcare Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection. [171669]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Subject to parliamentary approval of the Health and Social Care Bill, the new Care Quality Commission will be established in October 2008. The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), the Healthcare Commission (HC), and the Mental Health Act Commission will continue to carry out their functions until April 2009 when the new Commission will become operational and replace them.

The Impact Assessment for the Bill includes an estimate of £7 million for the additional cost of running the Care Quality Commission to 2009-10. As the explanatory notes to the Bill make clear there will

be more substantial transition costs relating to the cost and activity reduction programme for CSCI and HC, which have been estimated to total up to £140 million and will save £60 million per annum from 2008-09.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* redundancies and *(b)* early retirements have been made as a result of the merger of the Healthcare Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection; and how many are planned. [171670]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** We understand from the chairman of the Healthcare Commission that there have been no such redundancies or early retirements. We understand that the Commission for Social Care Inspection has not had any such redundancies or early retirements either. It will not be known how many, if any, reductions in staff will be required at either Commission until the new Commission decides on its staffing requirements.

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which parts of the inspection process will be merged as a result of the merger of the Healthcare Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection; and what the intended benefits are for patients. [171671]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The detail of how the new Care Quality Commission will operate will be a matter for the new Commission when it is established, subject to passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament. Nevertheless, through legislation it is our intention to set a single and coherent set of registration requirements.

There will be a coherent approach to assessment, inspection and registration of health and adult social care services to assure people that no matter where they choose to receive the service they need, that service will meet national requirements for safety and quality.

The new Commission will take a proportionate and flexible approach to regulating different services, concentrating more of its resources on services that present the biggest risk or where patients and users are most vulnerable.

The new Commission will also carry out performance reviews of registered providers and publish the results.

### Heart Diseases: Medical Treatments

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has assessed the cost effectiveness of existing technologies and approaches for treatment of end-stage heart failure in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [168316]

**Ann Keen:** The National Health Service Research and Development Health Technology Assessment Programme has published two independent cost-effectiveness assessments of ventricular assist devices in end-stage heart failure. "The clinical and cost effectiveness of left ventricular device assist devices for end-stage heart failure (2005)" and "The Evaluation of the Ventricular Assist Device Programme in the United Kingdom (2006)". Such devices are in use in the national heart transplant service in England.

### Heart Diseases: Transplant Surgery

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what figures his Department holds on international 30-day mortality rates following heart transplants; and if he will make a statement. [168315]

**Ann Keen:** The Department does not hold information on international 30-day mortality rates following heart transplants. The International Registry for Heart and Lung Transplantation reports international survival data. These are available on the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation website at:

www.ishlt.org

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has recommended an upper limit for donor organ allowable ischaemic time to provide a safe time limit prospect for heart transplantation; and if he will make a statement; [168318]

(2) after what period of ischaemic time his Department recommends that a heart is rejected by surgeons for transplantation; and if he will make a statement. [168319]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has not issued guidance in this area. In all instances, the decision to proceed with transplantation is a clinical one and represents a careful evaluation of the risks versus the potential benefits of the procedure. Although there is no official 'safe' length of ischaemia time for donor hearts, it is generally accepted that ischaemia times should be kept under four hours wherever possible. All transplant teams are aware that longer ischaemic times can increase the risk to transplantation. For adult deceased heartbeating donor hearts offered for transplant 1 April 2004-31 March 2007, 70 per cent. of ischaemia times were four hours or less.

### Hillingdon Hospital: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how often Hillingdon Hospital is expected to receive a deep clean; and when the first such clean will take place. [169692]

**Ann Keen:** As the Prime Minister made clear, deep cleaning will occur in all hospitals, starting this winter, with resources allocated through the strategic health authorities (SHAs). All trusts will submit costed deep clean plans to their lead commissioners who will monitor performance against this plan, as per normal performance management arrangements, and SHAs will take an overview as to progress across their area. Trusts are aiming to complete all deep cleans by the end of March 2008. SHAs will be expected to report on implementation across their regions to the Department.

### Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

**Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of pseudomonas infection were acquired in hospitals in each health trust in England in each year from 2002 to 2006; and if he will make a statement. [168201]

**Ann Keen:** The Health Protection Agency (HPA) receives reports from microbiology laboratories of cases of blood stream infections caused by pseudomonas in its voluntary reporting scheme. These bacteria can cause a range of infections from mild skin infections to urinary tract infections. They can also cause a variety of bloodstream infections, particularly in patients with serious burns and those who are severely immunosuppressed such as cancer and AIDS patients. Most infection cases are reported from intensive care, burns, spinal injuries or cancer units.

Information about whether the infection was acquired in hospital is not collected routinely.

Information is not available by acute national health service trust.

*Total patient episodes[1] of Pseudomonas spp.[2] blood stream infections (bacteraemia) in England*

| | *Total patient episode* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 1,762 |
| 2003 | 2,292 |
| 2004 | 2,381 |
| 2005 | 2,615 |
| 2006 | 3,098 |

[1] A patient episode comprises all isolates testing positive to the organism within two weeks of original isolate date.
[2] spp refers to a range of pseudomonas micro-organisms.
*Source:*
HPA—LabBase 2 (provisional data 21 November 2007)

The increased rate of reporting of cases of pseudomonas is comparable to the increase seen for all blood poisoning via the HPA's voluntary surveillance scheme. The increase is partly due to better reporting, surveillance and testing and may also reflect a changing hospital population, with more patients who are vulnerable to infection through conditions which compromise their immune systems being treated.

### Macular Degeneration: Research

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government has allocated to research into macular disease since 1997. [170094]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a large number concerned with macular degeneration are available on the national research register at:

www.nrr.nhs.uk.

The Department's expenditure on relevant national research programme projects during this time has been:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 117 |
| 2004-05 | 266 |
| 2005-06 | 299 |
| 2006-07 | 337 |

Implementation of the Department's research strategy Best Research for Best Health has led to an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. In particular, the Moorfields Eye Hospital/ University College London Institute of Ophthalmology Biomedical Research Centre, formed this year, is undertaking a research theme on age-related macular degeneration with a total budget of £2.6 million over the five years 2007-12.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant in aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Since 1997, MRC expenditure on research directly relevant to macular degeneration has been:

| | *£000* |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 300 |
| 1998-99 | 82 |
| 1999-2000 | 78 |
| 2000-01 | 140 |
| 2001-02 | 205 |
| 2002-03 | 659 |
| 2003-04 | 781 |
| 2004-05 | 625 |
| 2005-06 | 669 |

The MRC's total vision research portfolio amounts to around £6 million a year and in addition to the funding shown above is supporting a major programme on human retinal degenerations at the MRC Human Genetics Unit in Edinburgh.

### Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which *(a)* items and *(b)* buildings will be deep cleaned at the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospitals Trust; [162763]

(2) what the expected *(a)* start and *(b)* end date of the deep clean at the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospitals Trusts are; and what other interim deadlines there are for the deep clean programme there; [162764]

(3) from which heading of the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority budget the money for the deep clean at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospitals Trust will be taken. [162765]

**Ann Keen:** Deep cleaning will occur in all hospitals, starting this winter, with resources allocated through the strategic health authorities (SHAs). All trusts will submit costed deep clean plans to their lead commissioners who will monitor performance against this plan, as per normal performance management arrangements, and SHAs will take an overview as to progress across their area.

Deep cleaning is already in progress within Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust. The programme began on 1 November 2007 and is scheduled to be completed by 31 March 2008.

The funding for deep cleaning at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust is coming from primary care trust lodgements held at the South East Coast SHA for strategic purposes.

The items which are being deep cleaned at the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust are as follows:

floors;
skirtings;
walls;
tiled walls;
sills, ledges;
doors;
shelving;
sanitary-ware;
glassware;
stainless steel;
cupboards;
grilles/vents;
light switches and fittings;
wall protectors;
nurses stations;
trolleys;
soft furnishings, curtains;
patient equipment—drip stands, commodes, wheelchairs, trolleys, hoists, beds, bedside cabinets and any other associated medical equipment.

The buildings that are being deep cleaned at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust are as follows:

Maidstone Hospital;
Kent and Sussex Hospitals;
Pembury Hospital.

### Maidstone and West Kent NHS Trust: Clostridium

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will change the structure of the Maidstone and West Kent NHS Trust to take account of issues arising following the two *clostridium difficile* outbreaks there. [168633]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The Health Care Commission (HCC) made no recommendations for structural changes to Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Trust following their investigation into the outbreaks of *clostridium difficile*. The HCC recommended a review of the leadership of the trust which is currently being undertaken urgently.

### Maidstone Hospital: Clostridium

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the strategic health authority (SHA) was first informed of the *(a)* first and *(b)* second outbreak of *clostridium difficile* at Maidstone hospital; and what steps were taken by the SHA. [168636]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The Health Care Commission (HCC) report states that the former Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority (SHA) was informed of the second outbreak on 12 April 2006.

South East Coast SHA has advised officials that its Director of Public Health then held an outbreak meeting on 13 April 2006 and the acting SHA Chief Executive was informed at this point.

During May 2006 outbreak continued to be managed by the trust and Kent health protection unit (HPU), keeping the SHA informed. The HCC report states that the SHA did not take any direct action to follow up the outbreak as the HPU, where the specialist knowledge resided, agreed to keep the SHA fully informed.

At the end of June 2006 the HPU produced a report to the South East Coast SHA and in July 2006 the SHA asked the HCC to conduct an investigation.

### Malnutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 829W, on malnutrition, if he will break down the figures for 2005-06 by NHS trust. [168070]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 28 November 2007]:* The information requested has been placed in the Library. The tables show the total number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where the primary diagnoses are listed as per the tabled question; the total number of FCEs with the listed primary diagnosis and a secondary diagnosis, which mentions either malnutrition or nutritional anaemia and the proportion that this represents.

Due to there being several low numbers in the tables, low number suppression has been used. Furthermore, due to the use of low number suppression the table for depression contains no readable numbers for cases of the listed primary diagnosis with mentions of the malnutrition secondary diagnosis. This should not be taken as representative of the diagnosis as a whole.

A diagnosis of nutritional anaemia includes but is not limited to anaemias that are caused by an insufficient or poorly balanced diet. Furthermore, nutritional deficiencies without the mention of anaemia such as copper, molybdenum and zinc deficiency have not been included in our analysis.

### Mental Health and Employment: Meeting The Challenge

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his written statement of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 29-30WS, on mental health and employment: meeting the challenge, if he will make a statement on his Department's work on expanding the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme. [170316]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** On 10 October 2007, the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) announced additional investment to fund stepped improvements in access to psychological therapies over the next three years. The additional investment will be £173 million by 2010-11. In return for these resources, the national health service is committed to treating 900,000 more people for depression and anxiety disorders who would not otherwise have received a service. Over this period we will also train 3,600 new psychological therapists providing evidence-based treatment.

The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme will focus chiefly on supporting the NHS to deliver this policy in line with these commitments. It will also further develop the policy framework in order to improve access to psychological therapies for all sections of the population.

### Methadone

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were receiving methadone in each of the last five years, broken down by NHS trust. [166378]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Data are collected on the basis of those in receipt of substitute prescribing but are not broken down to the level of the type of medication that is being prescribed. Therefore, we are unable to provide any data on the numbers being specifically prescribed methadone.

### Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Yorkshire and Humberside

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people contracted MRSA in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years, broken down by hospital; and if he will make a statement. [169009]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the requested format. The available information is from the mandatory surveillance scheme of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections in acute national health service trusts in England. Data are reported by the trust whose laboratory processes the specimen, but may not necessarily reflect where the infection was acquired

Data for acute NHS Trusts in the Yorkshire and Humber region are provided in the following table.

This information and any further information on Health Protection Agency data for NHS Acute Trusts is also available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm

*Number of reported MRSA bloodstream infections (bacteraemias) for NHS trusts in the Yorkshire and Humber Region (England)*

*Number*

| *Trust* | *April to March each year* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* |
| Airedale NHS Trust | 10 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 13 |
| Barnsley Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 18 | 22 | 13 | 17 | 16 |
| Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 48 | 44 | 75 | 58 | 59 |
| Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust | 39 | 37 | 40 | 28 | 31 |
| Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 33 | 46 | 27 | 29 | 26 |
| Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust | 11 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 11 |
| Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 75 | 102 | 90 | 101 | 59 |
| Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust | 165 | 204 | 200 | 165 | 180 |
| Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 95 | 87 | 83 | 70 | 63 |
| North Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust | 34 | 28 | 40 | 23 | 48 |
| Rotherham General Hospitals NHS Trust | 14 | 25 | 7 | 21 | 14 |
| Scarborough and NE Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust | 15 | 33 | 19 | 13 | 16 |
| Sheffield Children's Hospitals NHS Trust | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust | 91 | 105 | 101 | 79 | 60 |
| York Health Services NHS Trust | 16 | 31 | 28 | 22 | 14 |
| Total | 664 | 792 | 751 | 652 | 612 |

*Source:*
Health Protection Agency

As the Prime Minister made clear, deep cleaning will occur in all hospitals, starting this winter, with resources allocated through the strategic health authorities (SHAs). All trusts will submit costed deep clean plans to their lead commissioners who will monitor performance against this plan, as per normal performance management arrangements, and SHAs will take an overview as to progress across their area. Trusts are aiming to complete all deep cleans by the end of March 2008. SHAs will be expected to report on implementation across their regions to the Department.

### Milton Keynes Hospital Trust: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether Milton Keynes Hospital Trust has submitted its deep cleaning plan to the strategic health authority; [165248]

(2) what the estimated cost of the Milton Keynes deep cleaning plan is; [165249]

(3) whether the cost of the deep clean for Milton Keynes hospital will come out of the hospital's existing budget. [165250]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* As the Prime Minister made clear, deep cleaning will occur in all hospitals, starting this winter, with resources allocated through the strategic health authorities (SHAs). All trusts will submit costed deep clean plans to their lead commissioners who will monitor performance against this plan, as per normal performance management arrangements, and SHAs will take an overview as to progress across their area. Trusts are aiming to complete all deep cleans by the end of March 2008. SHAs will be expected to report on implementation across their regions to the Department.

### NHS: Finance

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to assist NHS trusts that were identified as financially challenged in 2006-07; [162860]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for which the 17 trusts that were identified as financially challenged in 2006-07 found themselves in this position. [162861]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** As a result of the Department introducing the new loans system in 2006-07, there were originally 18 national health service trusts, where the financial challenges are such that the Department either could not give a loan because the trusts could not afford to meet the repayments, or where a loan was agreed, but the amount is very large and could only be repaid over a very extended timescale.

Cash support in the form of public dividend capital (PDC) was provided to 13 NHS trusts over the 2006-07 year end, pending the outcome of a review process in 2007-08. This process will set out the long term financing arrangements for these NHS trusts while maximising the level of cash support repaid to the Department.

The 13 NHS trusts, and details of the amount of PDC that each received, are in the following table.

| *Trust name* | *Value of PDC received (£000)* |
|---|---|
| Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital NHS Trust | 46,000 |
| Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust | 87,000 |
| Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust[1] | 14,000 |
| Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust | 27,300 |
| Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust | 77,246 |
| Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust | 65,432 |
| Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust | 15,000 |
| Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust | 56,400 |
| Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust | 21,000 |
| The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust | 13,000 |
| University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust | 29,277 |
| West Middlesex University NHS Trust | 17,000 |
| Weston Area Health NHS Trust | 16,250 |
| Total | 484,905 |

[1] Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust subsequently merged with Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust

The five NHS trusts, and details of the loan each received, are in the following table.

| *Trust name* | *Value of loan received (£000)* |
|---|---|
| Whipps Cross University Hospitals NHS Trust | 36,094 |
| Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust | 56,000 |
| The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust | 23,000 |
| North Bristol NHS Trust | 52,000 |
| Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust | 38,000 |

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated NHS underspend is likely to be in 2007-08; and if he will make it his policy not to transfer funds from parts of the NHS in budget surplus to other parts as a means of addressing this underspend. [171673]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The latest available financial data for 2007-08, based on the quarter 2 forecast outturn position, shows that the national health service as a whole is forecasting a year end surplus of £1,789 million. Details for each NHS organisation were included in the "Quarter 2 Finance Report", and a copy is available in the Library.

In recent years, the Department has improved the NHS financial regime by introducing a fairer, more transparent, rules-based system, which has included putting an end to the practice of moving money around the NHS, and abolishing both brokerage and planned support.

## NHS: Personal Records

**Mrs. Gillan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is able to gain access to the NHS medical records of individuals; what procedures are involved in accessing those records; and how his Department monitors access. [169000]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 28 November 2007]:* Local national health service organisations have the responsibility for determining which of their staff may access the detailed care records they hold, and for establishing the working practices that effectively deliver the confidentiality required ethically, and by law. Guidance on required practice for those who work within or under contract to NHS organisations about the safeguarding of confidentiality, and patients' consent to the use of their health records, exists in the form of the "NHS Confidentiality Code of Practice", published in November 2003. Local organisations are and have been responsible for the procedures that are followed, which differ from organisation to organisation and also according to whether the record concerned is held electronically or on paper.

The security measures controlling access to electronic medical records held on the NHS Care Records Service are set at the Cabinet Office standard e-Government interoperability framework level 3, with access further restricted to only those with a legitimate relationship with the patient, and further role-based access restrictions to specific information.

Tools are provided by NHS Connecting for Health to enable organisations to control access to records held in the new information technology systems and services deployed under the national programme for information technology. To access patient records staff will need to:

have been issued with a smartcard following rigorous identity checks;

log on to a system with their card and pass code;

have been assigned a role profile that permits them to use system functions that allow record access and;

have their membership of a team involved in a patient's care confirmed by a check against central records or

have special authorisation to satisfy statutory requirements or other exceptional reasons for accessing records.

System audit trails will enable organisations to monitor access and the Department has made it clear that misuse must not be tolerated. The Department will monitor how well NHS organisations adhere to standards rather than the details of access.

### North Staffordshire University Hospital: Pay

**Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust makes full and accurate payments to staff at the North Staffordshire University Hospital in line with their entitlement to remuneration for hours worked and pay award, within the timescale specified in their contracts. [171189]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* This is a matter for the chair of University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust. I have written to Sir Albert Bore informing him of the hon. Member's inquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

### Obesity: Pregnancy

**Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact of growing levels of obesity on pregnancy and childbirth. [163278]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Two recent Government reports, Foresight 'Tackling Obesities: Future Choices' published in October 2007; and the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence 'Guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children' published in December 2006 have made evidence-based assessments of the importance of key life stages in preventing obesity, including pre-pregnancy and pregnancy.

The most recent triennial report 'Saving Mothers Lives', published by CEMACH on 4 December found maternity obesity is a growing risk factor for maternal death and more than half of the women who died were either overweight or obese and more than 15 per cent. were extremely obese.

The Government are developing a comprehensive cross-Government strategy on obesity.

### Out-patients: Nutrition

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of pre-hospital admission nutritional support offered by the NHS to those patients with a clinical need. [170056]

**Dawn Primarolo:** No assessment has been made by the Department on the level of pre-hospital nutritional support offered by the national health service to patients with a clinical need. This is a decision made by those providing health care services based on individual circumstances and needs.

### Peterborough District Hospital: Cleaning Services

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when *(a)* Peterborough District Hospital and *(b)* Edith Cavell Hospital can expect to receive their deep cleans; and if he will make a statement. [168508]

**Ann Keen** *[holding answer 28 November 2007]:* As the Prime Minister made clear, deep cleaning will occur in all hospitals, starting this winter, with resources allocated through the strategic health authorities (SHAs). All trusts will submit costed deep clean plans to their lead commissioners who will monitor performance against this plan, as per normal performance management arrangements, and SHAs will take an overview as to progress across their area. Trusts are aiming to complete all deep cleans by the end of March 2008. SHAs will be expected to report on implementation across their regions to the Department.

### Prescriptions

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 289WA, on nurses: prescriptions, how many prescriptions have been issued by *(a)* nurse independent prescribers, *(b)* community practitioner nurse prescribers and *(c)* doctors in each of the past 12 months for which figures are available. [169874]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The following table shows the number of prescription items issued by nurse independent prescribers, community practitioner nurse prescribers and doctors and dispensed in the community, in England, for the period October 2006 to September 2007.

*Number of prescription items dispensed*

*Thousand*

| | *Issued by nurse independent prescribers* | *Issued by community practitioner nurse prescribers* | *Issued by doctors* |
|---|---|---|---|
| October 2006 | 412 | 218 | 64,053 |
| November 2006 | 447 | 217 | 66,436 |
| December 2006 | 431 | 194 | 63,752 |
| January 2007 | 524 | 228 | 64,331 |
| February 2007 | 489 | 198 | 58,564 |
| March 2007 | 548 | 215 | 65,495 |
| April 2007 | 528 | 200 | 60,648 |
| May 2007 | 568 | 218 | 65,236 |
| June 2007 | 583 | 209 | 64,347 |
| July 2007 | 596 | 216 | 64,411 |
| August 2007 | 580 | 204 | 65,549 |
| September 2007 | 547 | 190 | 61,251 |
| Total | 6,253 | 2,508 | 764,273 |

*Source:*
Electronic prescribing analysis and cost tool system.

### Processed Food: Labelling

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of producers of processed foods that are providing consumers with information on *(a)* ingredients, *(b)* food values and *(c)* traffic light indicators for sugar, salt and fat content; and if he will make a statement. [170106]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Regulation 5 of the Food Labelling Regulations 1996 (as amended) (SI 1996 No 1499) which implements European Union legislation (Council Directive 2000/13/EC) requires pre-packed foods (subject to a few exceptions) to be labelled with a full list of ingredients.

It is estimated that about 80 per cent. of pre-packed food in the United Kingdom provides some form of nutrition labelling. There are currently 28 companies using the traffic light labelling approach in the UK.

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which supermarkets use traffic light indicators as guidance for consumers on the sugar, salt and fat content of processed foods. [170107]

**Dawn Primarolo:** Currently eight United Kingdom retailers use traffic light front of pack labels: Asda, Budgens/Londis, The Cooperative, Boots, Marks and Spencers, Sainsbury's and Waitrose. This represents more than 40 per cent. by sales of the food retail market in the UK.

### Tuberculosis: Foreigners

**Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of tuberculosis were diagnosed in foreign nationals resident in the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [170653]

**Dawn Primarolo:** The Health Protection Agency does not collect data on tuberculosis in foreign nationals resident in the United Kingdom.

### Waiting Lists

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for *(a)* inpatient admissions at the East Kent NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust and *(b)* inpatient mental health services in England in 2006; and if he will make a statement. [169567]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** This information is not collected centrally. All mental health in-patient admissions are emergencies and not from a waiting list.

### Wheelchairs

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to introduce prescription charges for the provision of wheelchairs; [170360]

(2) what the average waiting time was for a wheelchair being provided to a patient following a GP referral for *(a)* a standard wheelchair and *(b)* a specialist wheelchair in the latest period for which figures are available; [170362]

(3) what plans he has to ensure the needs of wheelchair users with complex needs will be protected under the current review of wheelchair service provision. [170363]

**Ann Keen:** The Department has no plans to introduce prescription charges for the provision of wheelchairs.

We do not collect data on the average waiting time for a wheelchair being provided to a patient following a general practitioner referral.

The Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme team are continuing to have regular meetings with stakeholders to ensure that the needs of wheelchair users with complex needs will be fully considered during the current review of wheelchair provision.

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Certification Officer: Complaints

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 487W, on certification officer: Complaints, if he will set out what action was taken in relation to each of the orders made. [171028]

**Mr. McFadden:** Details of the orders made are given in the following table. All of the decisions are available on the certification officer's website:

www.certoffice.org

Where the certification officer makes an order, it may be enforced in the same way as under an order of court. The certification officer is not aware that any such action has been necessary in relation to any of these orders.

| | *Enforcement orders* |
|---|---|
| 2006-07 | (D/59-60/06) King and King *v.* TGWU. Order—"The union is ordered to give the claimants access to inspect the accounting records of branch 1/230 in the form of the quarterly returns to the union's region 1 going back to 1 January 2005, or from whenever such returns were first made, whichever is the shorter period. The claimants are to be given access to those records no later than 28 January 2007." |
| 2005-06 | 1. (D3/06) Lee *v.* NASUWT Order—"The NASUWT is ordered to give the claimant access to inspect those accounting records of the London Benevolent Federation of the union which are in its power, possession or control and which relate to the period of six years ending on 12 April 2005. The claimant is to be given access to inspect those records no later than Tuesday, 31 January 2006. The inspection shall be during the normal office hours of the union and shall be at the union's head office, unless the parties agree otherwise. If such accounts would reveal the names of those who received benefit, those names may be substituted with "Person 1; Person 2 etc". In the event of a dispute as to whether any particular document or category of documents constitutes an accounting record, the claimant is given leave to apply." |
| | 2. (D5/05) Gallagher *v.* UNISON Order—"I order that UNISON considers any future application by Ms Gallagher to attend any union conferences without regard to the policy of exclusion adopted by the National Executive Council on 22 June 2004." |
| | 3. (D15//05) Scobie *v.* TGWU Order—"I order that Ms Foyer shall forthwith cease to hold the office, or carry out the functions, of National Secretary of ACTS, unless or until she is appointed in accordance with the rules of the Union." |
| 2004-05 | (D/3/04) Beaumont *v.* Amicus Order—"I order that Mr. Lyons shall cease forthwith to hold office as joint general secretary of Amicus." |
| 2003-04 | 1. (D24-27/03) Stokes *v.* GMB Order—"5.1 subject as hereafter, the election to the position of deputy general secretary of the union, the result of which was declared on 15 April 2003 ("the disputed election"), be treated as void and of no effect. The person elected in that election, Ms Coulter, shall cease forthwith to hold office as deputy general secretary. |
| | 5.2 the union shall conduct a further election for the position of deputy general secretary, such election to be conducted so as to be in accordance with the rules of the union and Chapter IV of the 1992 Act. |

| | *Enforcement orders* |
|---|---|
| | 5.3 the implied rule of the union, referred to in the reasons to this decision as the precursor provision, shall apply to all nominees in the further election as if the term of office of the deputy general secretary were to have begun on 15 April 2003. |
| | 5.4 the further election shall be conducted so that its result is declared no later than 31 March 2004. The union is given liberty to apply in the event of the union being unable to comply with the requirement to declare the result of the election by the specified date. |
| | 5.5 the union shall not be required to proceed with the further election and the result of the disputed election shall stand should the Applicant and any member of the union who would have been excluded from being a candidate in the disputed election by reason only of the impending retirement provision not be nominated in the further election or should all such nominees subsequently either withdraw or be lawfully excluded from standing prior to the date of distribution of the voting papers. |
| | 2. (D19/03) Ecclestone *v.* NUJ Order—"I order that the persons elected to the National Executive Council of the union for 2003-04 representing disabled members and black members cease to hold office forthwith." |
| 2002-03 | 1. (D1/03) Mortimer *v.* Amicus Order—"Amicus is ordered to give the applicant access to inspect those accounting records of the union which relate to a termination payment made to Mr Chowcat by the union in or about 1999. The applicant is to be given access to those records no later than Friday 28 March 2003." |
| | 2. (D/31/02) Hill *v.* Bakers Food and Allied workers Union Order—"The union shall forthwith treat the election of Mr Marino to the position of general secretary held in 2002 as having taken effect on 9 August 2002 and his term of office as having commenced on that date." |
| | 3. (D/23/02) Saunders *v.* Musicians Union Order—The musicians' union shall treat as void and ineffective the alteration of rules approved by a ballot, the result of which was declared on 31 January 2002. The union shall continue to apply the rules that prevailed prior to that purported alteration, unless and until the rules of the union are altered in accordance with rule XIX.C of its rules." |
| | 4. (D21-22/02) Adams *v.* Prison Officers Association Order—"I order that a further election be held for the position of National Chair of the Association to be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Chapter IV of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. The result of this election shall be declared no later than Friday 9 August 2002." |

## Cyprus

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department visited *(a)* Cyprus and *(b)* Bermuda on official business in 2006-07, broken down by grade; and what the equivalent figures for Department of Trade and Industry were in (i) 1983, (ii) 1987 and (iii) each year between 1998 and 2005. [165728]

**Mr. Thomas:** There are no records of visits to Cyprus by officials prior to 2001. From 2001 onwards, the number of visits by officials has been:

| *Grade* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| *Director and Range 6* | |
| 2001 | 2 |
| 2002 | 0 |
| *Range 9 and Range 6* | |
| 2003 | 2 |
| *Director and Range 8* | |
| 2004 | 2 |
| 2005 | 0 |

I am not aware of any visits to Bermuda by officials in 1983, 1987 or between 1998 and 2005.

## Defence Export Services Organisation

**Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he was informed of the Prime Minister' decision to close the Defence Export Services Organisation and to move part of its remit to UK Trade and Investment. [162996]

**Mr. Thomas:** My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, was consulted before the Prime Minister's announcement on 25 July 2007 to transfer trade promotion for defence exports to UKTI.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the defence industry on the abolition of the Defence Export Services Organisation. [169658]

**Mr. Thomas** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* Following my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's announcement to transfer responsibility for defence export support to UKTI, Ministers and officials have held a number of meetings with the defence industry to help manage the implementation of the change. These meetings have generally been led by UKTI/BERR reflecting future ministerial responsibility for defence exports.

## Departmental Carbon Emissions

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system for its estate or part thereof. [165937]

**Mr. Thomas:** BERR's predecessor Department DTI's environmental management system (EMS) which covers its London HQ buildings was certified to ISO 14001 in 1999 with accreditation being maintained since through a UKAS external verification organisation. On the formation of BERR the EMS accreditation was transferred from DTI to BERR.

## Departmental Consultants

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; what the approximate

cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement; and if he will make a statement. [164237]

**Mr. Thomas:** Central records indicate that as at 8 October 2007 the Department has spent the following on consultancy services:

| *Financial year* | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 53.6 |
| 2006-07 | 40.2 |
| 2007-08 | [1]16.3 |

[1] To date

I have placed in the Libraries of the House a list of companies that received payments for consultancy services in each of the last three financial years, together with details of the total amount paid to each.

I have asked chief executives of the executive agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168756]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department's Information Security Management System are compliant and have been independently certified to BS7799 since May 2002. In March 2007 certification was successfully achieved against the new ISO27001 standard. The certificate will be updated to reflect the name change to BERR at the next surveillance audit in 2008.

### Departmental Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167939]

**Mr. Thomas:** No member of staff either in the Department or its agencies receive private health insurance as part of their terms and conditions of employment.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what entertainment or hospitality members of his Department's management board received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164739]

**Mr. Thomas:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

### Departmental Parliamentary Questions

**Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer from the Minister of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 132-3W, on post offices: York, when he expects the Managing Director of Post Office Limited to reply to the question. [169688]

**Mr. McFadden:** I understand that the Managing Director of Post Office Limited will reply shortly and a copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) which telephone contact centres are the responsibility of his Department; what mechanisms are in place to monitor their effectiveness; and how many people have been employed in each of those centres in each year since they were established; [166531]

(2) how much each telephone contact centre for which his Department is responsible has *(a)* cost and *(b)* generated in income in each financial year since their establishment; [166533]

(3) what information his Department collects and monitors in relation to the telephone contact centres for which his Department is responsible. [166532]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department's central records do not contain the information to answer these questions. Therefore, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform could answer these questions only at disproportionate cost.

### Departments: Official Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will break down the figures referred to in the answer of 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 491W, on Departments: official hospitality, to give the amount spent on each function at which hospitality expenses were incurred. [162152]

**Mr. Thomas:** The figures shown in the earlier reply of 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 491W, were a summary from a series of events, and a detailed breakdown could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Economic Agreements: ACP Countries

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what transitional agreements will be made with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries that are not ready to sign economic partnership agreements by the end of 2007. [169122]

**Mr. Thomas:** The European Commission, which is negotiating economic partnership agreements (EPAs) with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, on behalf of the EU, has made clear that those countries which have not signed an EPA by the

31 December 2007, will revert to the generalised system of preferences (GSP) scheme from 1 January 2008.

The UK and other EU member states made clear to the Commission at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels in November that we do not want to see ACP countries face higher tariffs on their exports to the EU on 1 January 2008. The best way of avoiding this is by agreeing an EPA. Discussions are ongoing about transitional agreements which could be considered for countries which are not ready to sign a full EPA.

### Fire Prevention: Furniture

**Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to meet *(a)* representatives of the British Furniture Confederation and *(b)* managers of large UK furniture retailers to discuss (i) raising awareness of the Furniture and Furnishing (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 and (ii) the impact of compliance with those regulations on fire safety. [166732]

**Mr. Thomas:** Ministers and officials of my Department are in regular communication with representatives of the furniture industry with regard to the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988. I am currently considering whether further public awareness of the requirements of the regulations is necessary at this stage.

### Imports: Toys

**Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what legislation governs the importation of toys into the UK; and what estimate he has made of the percentage of toys bought in England that were imported from overseas in each year since 1997. [168325]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Toys (Safety) Regulations 1995 implement the requirements of the EC toy safety directive in the UK. The regulations apply to all toys supplied in this country, whether they are made here or imported.

The Office for National Statistics publishes data on total UK manufacturer sales, imports, exports and derived data for net supply to the UK market, home sales and home production in its annual publication "PRA 36500 Product Sales and Trade: Games and Toys".

### Information: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the brief given to Cambridge university when it was commissioned to undertake the study for his Department on information pricing. [166009]

**Mr. Thomas:** The work that the experts from Cambridge are undertaking is being conducted on an independent basis. We have not listed the bodies that should or should not be included in their meeting plans. We do not possess information on the stakeholders Cambridge has met or plans to meet.

### Internet

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of *(a)* people and *(b)* children from socio-economic groups (i) 1-3 and (ii) 4-7 with access to (A) internet and (B) broadband (1) nationally and (2) in London. [169819]

**Mr. Timms:** The Department does not maintain figures on this matter.

Latest statistics from the independent regulator, Office of Communications (Ofcom) Consumer Experience report released on 20 November 2007 shows that Broadband penetration has continued to increase significantly over the last 12 months—rising from 45 per cent. of households in 2006 to 55 per cent. in 2007. This increase is at the expense of narrowband as we see a drop in narrowband penetration. In 2007, 86 per cent. of internet owners have a broadband connection compared with 73 per cent. in 2006.

Ofcom socio economic profile of those who use the internet:

| | | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *2005* | *2006* | *2007* |
| 75+ | 10 | 14 | 27 |
| AB | 79 | 83 | 82 |
| C1 | 64 | 67 | 75 |
| C2 | 53 | 59 | 65 |
| DE | 31 | 35 | 40 |

Internet take-up has continued to increase—rising 4 per cent. over the last year; 9 per cent. over the last two years—with over two thirds of the population now stating they have access to the internet at home. Use of the internet anywhere has increased from 66 per cent. in 2005 to 71 per cent. in 2007.

The UK has one of the fastest growing broadband markets in Europe and continues to have the most extensive availability.

With 55 per cent. of households having broadband, the UK is ahead of most of the other large European countries and now has penetration levels which match those in US and Japan. In 2003 the UK was ranked seventh in the number of broadband connections per capita. Since 2003 the UK has moved two places to fifth place, moving ahead of the USA and France.

A copy of the Ofcom consumer experience report can be found at:

http://www.radioauthority.org.uk/research/tce/policy07/policy07.pdf

### Israel

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department and its predecessor visited Israel on official business in 2007, broken down by grade; and what the equivalent number was in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987 and *(c)* each year between 1998 and 2005. [165732]

**Mr. Thomas:** According to records kept by the British embassy in Tel Aviv, six official visits have been made to Israel by BERR staff in 2007 (three at Range 10, one at Range 9 and two at Range 8).

In 2005, seven official visits were made to Israel by BERR staff (one senior civil servant, two at Range 9, three at Range 8 and one at Range 6).

Records have not been kept for visits to Israel prior to 2005.

### Overseas Trade: Israel

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase trade between the United Kingdom and Israel; how much his Department and its predecessor spent on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and Israel in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [165730]

**Mr. Thomas:** UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) provides a range of support services to British companies wishing to trade with or invest in Israel, through commercial teams based in both the UK and the British embassy in Tel Aviv.

UKTI support focuses, in particular, on business opportunities in high technology sectors, including Biotechnology, Healthcare, Aerospace, Information and Communication Technology, the Environmental Industries and Financial and Legal Services. Information on commercial events in Israel is posted on the UKTI website (www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk) along with details of specific business opportunities in the market.

UKTI supports the work of the Israel British Business Council (IBBC) including bi-annual meetings in Tel Aviv and London, and also supports a broad range of activities aimed at boosting bilateral trade and investment, including trade missions to Israel, inward missions by Israeli firms to trade fairs in the UK and promotional events aimed at encouraging Israeli companies to list in London.

Information on annual expenditure on trade promotion is unavailable due to the length of time it would take to research these figures.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department work on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and Israel, broken down by grade; and what the equivalent numbers were for the Department of Trade and Industry in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987 and *(c)* in each year between 1998 and 2005. [165731]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) team in the British embassy in Tel Aviv currently comprises one UK based C5 Head of Section and six local Israeli staff. In addition, UKTI employs one Range 8 officer in London, focussed primarily on boosting trade and investment links with Israel, as well as more senior staff who have wider geographical responsibilities, which include Israel.

In 2005, the UKTI team in Tel Aviv was managed by a UK based D6 Head of Section, although the team was the same size. Two UKTI staff were employed in London with responsibilities for trade and investment with Israel, at Range 8 and Range 6 level.

With regard to the other years requested, these records are not held centrally by the Department.

### Maternity Services: EC Action

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on maternity services provided by *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* the independent sector of the transposition into UK law of the EU Services Directive; [168235]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the transposition into UK law of the EU Services Directive on the ability of providers of maternity services based in another EU member state to offer their services in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [168239]

**Mr. Thomas:** The directive excludes health care services, regardless of the ways in which they are organised and financed at national level, or whether they are public or private. Health care services, including maternity services, covered by this exclusion will not be affected by the services directive.

### Political Levy

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to introduce an opt-in system for trade union political funds in England. [171390]

**Mr. McFadden:** Since 1946, the law has provided for trade union members to opt out of contributing to their union's political fund. This aspect of trade union law is well-established, and the Government have no current plans to change it.

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance has been provided under the direct debit guarantee on whether trade unions are required to *(a)* notify in advance and *(b)* inform trade union members paying by direct debit should the amount and value of the political levy on their trade union subscription change. [171478]

**Mr. McFadden:** The direct debit guarantee is a voluntary arrangement which applies to banks and building societies taking part in the direct debit scheme. As far as I am aware, there is no specific guidance relating to the application of the guarantee to the payment of union subscriptions.

### Post Offices

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many mobile post office outreach services have been provided since such services were first introduced; and what, on average, the annual cost of such a service is. [170317]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices were open in each year since 1997 in *(a)* Guildford, *(b)* South West Surrey and *(c)* England. [170793]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member. I will place copies of the letter in the Libraries of the House.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the economic impact on local business resulting from the closure of post offices was taken into account when deciding on the policy to close 2,500 post offices. [169685]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network made clear that Post Office Ltd.'s local proposals for, and decisions on, closures will need to reflect consideration of a range of factors including the impact on local economies as well as compliance with the access criteria set by the Government and have taken account of significant local geographic constraints.

**Mr. Frank Field:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what terms he has laid down for specialist staff to be selected, trained and employed in those post offices which are being moved into WH Smith retail operations. [169971]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will provide additional resources for public transport in those areas where post offices are closed. [170124]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Department does not provide funding for public transport. However, as the Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network made clear that Post Office Ltd.'s local proposals for, and decisions on, closures will need to reflect consideration of a range of factors including the availability of public transport as well as compliance with the access criteria set by the Government.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the accuracy of the travel times to alternative post offices quoted in the documents supporting the post office's network change programme. [170131]

**Mr. McFadden:** None. This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how the proportion of elderly people in affected communities was reflected in the Government's criteria for post office closures. [170132]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network made clear that Post Office Ltd.'s local proposals for, and decisions on, closures will need to reflect consideration of a range of factors such as local demographics including the age profile of communities in the areas affected as well compliance with he access criteria set by the Government. The age profiles of communities affected by proposals in the Sussex area plan are included in the individual branch access reports prepared and published by Post Office Ltd.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will reconsider the closure of post offices where there is significant public opposition to the closure plans. [170134]

**Mr. McFadden:** Final decisions on post office closures rest with Post Office Ltd. However Post Office Ltd. has set up with Postwatch, the consumer body representing customers, a three stage review process for contentious cases, with increasing seniority of the respective Post Office Ltd. and Postwatch representatives. Last week, Post Office Ltd. announced an additional stage whereby, for those difficult cases where no agreement could be reached in the earlier review stages, Allan Leighton, chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach a final decision.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what account will be taken of the views of local people when considering which post offices in Sussex should close under the plans announced this month. [170417]

**Mr. McFadden:** During each public consultation significant volumes of comments and correspondence are received from local people, their representatives and other interested bodies. All information and views received during the consultation period is carefully considered before final decisions are made.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what account the Government plans to take of the proportion of elderly residents in deciding in which areas to close post offices. [170429]

**Mr. McFadden:** In formulating its area plan proposals for post office closures and new outreach services, Post Office Ltd. is required to consider the age profile of residents in the areas affected. The age profiles of communities affected by proposals in the Sussex area plan are included in the individual branch access reports prepared and published by Post Office Ltd.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of whether the proposed closures of post offices in East Worthing and Shoreham meet the criteria on the needs of local people in the area. [170516]

**Mr. McFadden:** It is for Post Office Ltd. to ensure that its area plan proposals for post office closures and new outreach service meet the Government criteria and consider the wider factors set out in the Government's response to the national public consultation on the post office network. In addition, Postwatch will make

its own assessment of the proposals in the context of the criteria and the local consultation provides a further opportunity for the needs of local people to be voiced and any new or additional information to be brought to Post Office Ltd.'s attention before final decisions are made.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ask the Office of Government Commerce to review the consultation process begun by Post Office Ltd. to close post offices in Sussex. [170518]

**Mr. McFadden:** Post Office Ltd.'s consultation process for area plan proposals for post office closures and new outreach services in Sussex and elsewhere follows the framework set out in the Government response to the national public consultation on the post office network. The memorandum of understanding between Post Office Ltd. and Postwatch sets out more detailed arrangements for the local public consultation process.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidelines were followed by Post Office Ltd. in the consultation period on the closure of post offices in Sussex. [170523]

**Mr. McFadden:** As required by the code, the Government conducted a 12 week consultation on their proposals for the Post Office network which considered the principle of whether there should be post office closures and new outreach services. Post Office Ltd.'s six week local public consultations on its area plans are on how changes are to be implemented at the local level. Before these local public consultations begin, Post Office Ltd. seeks detailed input from Postwatch, local authorities and sub-postmasters in developing its proposals. I understand that Post Office Ltd. takes the view that the combination of the pre-consultation phase and the subsequent six week of local public consultation period enables sufficiently robust consultations to take place at a local area level. I also understand from the company that the level of response to those local consultations which have now closed has been high.

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who decided that the consultation period for post office closures would be six weeks; and for what reasons that period was decided on. [170642]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government decided that the consultation period for post office closures would be six weeks as set out in their response to the national public consultation on the post office network. The early stages of developing Post Office Ltd.'s area plan proposals post office closures and new outreach service involve detailed plan development discussions with Postwatch and the involvement of local authorities in advance of formal public consultation. When combined with the subsequent six weeks of public consultation, the Government believe that this enables sufficiently robust consultations to take place at a local area level. We are also mindful of the fact that the organisation representing sub-postmasters argued for a speedy local consultation to minimise uncertainty for sub-postmasters and customers.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of local post office closures in Guildford and Waverley on the accessibility of services for local residents. [170791]

**Mr. McFadden:** The access criteria set out in the Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network are designed to maintain a national network and reasonable access to post office services. In developing its area plan proposals for post office closures and new outreach service, Post Office Ltd must give consideration to a range of factors such as availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on local economies as well as any local geographical constraints and must also ensure compliance with the access criteria set by the Government.

**Anne Milton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment has been made of the effect of post office closures where the local community has bought the shop which incorporates a post office. [170792]

**Mr. McFadden:** Post Office Ltd's local decisions on closures will need to reflect consideration of a range of factors such as the impact on local economies as well compliance with the access criteria set by the Government. The effect of the closure of individual post offices on any associated retail business will not be known until the implementation of Post Office Ltd's network change plan for that area is completed.

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons there will be no consultations on post office closures between April and 2 May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [170970]

**Mr. McFadden:** The normal purdah arrangements, set out in Cabinet Office guidance which has been observed by successive Administrations of both parties for many years, take effect every year during local elections. The guidance clearly states that consultations, and decisions relating to them, should not be launched in an election period and this will apply from 7 April to 2 May in respect of the local elections to be held in England and Wales on 1 May 2008.

### Post Offices: Hampshire

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the timetable is for the Post Office to finalise assessments of all of its sub-post offices in Hampshire; and if he will make a statement. [165865]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I understand that the consultation period for post offices in Hampshire ended on 26 November, and that final decisions on closures are expected to be announced by POL on 4 January 2008.

## Post Offices: Sussex

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the future viability of businesses currently housing post offices once they are removed under the closure plans in Sussex. [169684]

**Mr. McFadden:** Post Office Ltd.'s local decisions on closures will need to reflect consideration of a range of factors such as the impact on local economies as well compliance with the access criteria set by the Government. The effect of the closure of individual post offices on any associated retail business will not be known until the implementation of Post Office Ltd.'s network change plan for Sussex is completed.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the economic effect on local businesses of the closure of post offices in Sussex. [169686]

**Mr. McFadden:** In developing its area plan proposals for post office closures in Sussex, Post Office Ltd. is required to consider a range of factors including the impact on local economies as well compliance with the access criteria set by the Government.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria the Government has set out to ensure that people with disabilities have continued access to post office facilities under the proposals to close services in Sussex. [169687]

**Mr. McFadden:** The access criteria set out in the Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network are designed to maintain a national network and reasonable access to post office services. It is the responsibility of individual post offices to meet the requirements of disability discrimination legislation with regard to access to their premises for disabled customers.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to ensure that full information on the proposed closure of post offices in Sussex be delivered to every household in affected areas. [170122]

**Mr. McFadden:** At the start of each local public consultation, Post Office Ltd. publishes full information on its area plan proposals for post office closures and new outreach services on its website and all post office branches in the area display posters for customers. Those offices likely to be affected by the proposals also provide leaflets giving information about the changes proposed for that office.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of the proposed closure of post offices in Sussex arising from increased travelling. [170123]

**Mr. McFadden:** As stated in the Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network, closures will principally affect a combination of branches in areas of overprovision. In taking a strategic overview of service provision in areas of over-provision, Post Office Ltd. will ensure that people will be able to find an alternative branch nearby and the vast majority will still be within walking distance of their nearest office. With the least used offices, the numbers of people affected, will, by the nature of the offices, be low. I understand from Post Office Ltd. that under the area plan proposals for Sussex, 99.6. per cent. of the population will either see no change to the branch they currently use or will be within one mile of an alternative branch.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what pre-consultation preparation *(a)* the Government required and *(b)* was undertaken by Royal Mail before the public consultation on post office closures in Sussex was launched. [170126]

**Mr. McFadden:** In its response to the public consultation on the post office network, the Government made clear that in the early stages of developing its area plan proposals Post Office Ltd. would have detailed discussions with Postwatch and seek input from local authorities. In developing the Sussex area plan, Post Office Ltd. has received input from Postwatch and from local authorities

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ask Post Office Ltd. to extend the period of consultation on the closure of post offices in Sussex to at least 12 weeks. [170133]

**Mr. McFadden:** As the Government's response to the national public consultation on the post office network explained the arguments for a longer local consultation period were considered but the Government decided to confirm their decision for a six week local consultation period reflecting the approach followed during the latter stages of the urban reinvention programme. The early stages of developing Post Office Ltd.'s area plan proposals involve detailed plan development discussions with Postwatch and the involvement of local authorities in advance of formal public consultation. When combined with the subsequent six weeks of public consultation, the Government believe that this will enable sufficiently robust consultations to take place at a local area level. We are also mindful of the fact that the organisation representing sub-postmasters argued for a speedy local consultation to minimise uncertainty for sub-postmasters and customers.

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will visit East Worthing and Shoreham to discuss the Government's criteria used to determine post office network changes with local residents. [170416]

**Mr. McFadden:** The Government's criteria for post office network changes were confirmed in their response to the national public consultation on the post office network. The Government's response is available on the Department's website.

### Post Offices: West Midlands

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Post Office Network Change Programme consultation will begin for the Herefordshire, Worcestershire and West Midlands area; and if he will make a statement. [170971]

**Mr. McFadden:** I understand from Post Office Ltd. that the local public consultation on its area plan for Herefordshire, Worcestershire and West Midlands is scheduled to start on 27 August 2008.

### Postal Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170160]

**Mr. Thomas:** My Department uses the following companies to provide mail services.:

Royal Mail: same day delivery and first and second class mail;

Parcel Force: next day delivery, timed mail and 48-hour delivery;

Lewis Day: international couriers;

Government Mail: internal mail;

Pitney Bowes: mail screening;

FCO: diplomatic bag;

DHL: bulk deliveries of exhibition material.

### Retirement

**Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department requires its employees to retire at the latest at 65 years of age; and if he will make a statement. [169617]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department's retirement age is 65, although staff can retire at any age between 60 and 65 subject to giving three months notice. As the Department's retirement age was increased from age 60 to 65 in 2002, staff who continued working beyond age 60 are only now reaching 65. Staff are notified eight months before they are 65 of their right to request to work after they are 65 and their line manager considers their request.

The Department has decided to retain the default retirement age of 65 in the short term. This will be reviewed at the beginning of 2008 ahead of the wider review of the default retirement age in 2011.

### Severn Barrage

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) who will lead the feasibility study on the prospects for a Severn Barrage; which organisations will be contributing to the study; and if he will make a statement. [167517]

(2) what the expected cost is of the feasibility study on the prospects for a Severn Barrage; and if he will make a statement. [167519]

(3) when he expects the feasibility study on the prospects for a Severn Barrage to begin; how long he expects the study to take; and if he will make a statement. [167520]

**Malcolm Wicks:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 908W.

### Tidal Power: Pembrokeshire

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funds his Department has *(a)* committed and *(b)* spent on the development of a tidal power project off the north Pembrokeshire coast. [166213]

**Malcolm Wicks:** A total of £3,226,449 has been committed through the Technology Strategy Board's technology programme (formerly DTIs technology programme) to assist Lunar Energy Ltd develop the novel tidal turbine technology that would be used for the project.

This type of early commercial scale project can attract support under BERR's £50 million marine renewables deployment fund.

**Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely timetable for *(a)* gaining planning consents and *(b)* construction of the tidal power scheme proposed by Lunar Energy and E.on. [166214]

**Malcolm Wicks:** No such assessment has been made as there has been no application made for consent under the Electricity Act 1989 in respect of the tidal power scheme proposed by Lunar Energy Limited and E.on UK plc.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Central Sponsor for Information Assurance Unit

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the budget was of the Central Sponsor for Information Assurance Unit in each of the last five years; [168803]

(2) how many people were employed in the Central Sponsor for Information Assurance Unit in each of the last five years. [168804]

**Edward Miliband** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The Central Sponsor for Information Assurance forms part of the work of the Intelligence, Security and Resilience Group (ISS). Details for this group are included in the Department's annual report and accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

### Departmental Staff

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the percentage turnover of staff was in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in (i) the last 12-month period and (ii) the last 24-month period for which figures are available; [169028]

(2) what the percentage turnover of staff was in the Office of the Leader of the House in *(a)* the last 12-month period and *(b)* the last 24-month period for which figures are available. [169027]

**Gillian Merron:** For these purposes the Office of the Leader of the House forms part of the Cabinet Office and is covered in overall figures for the Cabinet Office set out as follows.

The turnover rate for the Cabinet Office for the 2006-07 financial year was 26.9 per cent. and for the 24 months from April 2005 to March 2007 period was 26.5 per cent. The Department has a higher level of turnover compared to other Government Departments, because there are significant numbers of staff on fixed term appointments, on loan from other Government Departments or on secondment from external organisations, bringing in people with relevant skills/ expertise to work on current priorities.

For the Central Office of Information, equivalent figures are 12.9 per cent. and 11.8 per cent.

Turnover figures include all staff who have left the relevant Department in the relevant period, including staff who have moved to other Government Departments, as well as staff who have left the civil service.

### Departmental Secondment

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year; [167281]

(2) how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from the Office of the Leader of the House in each year since 1997; which organisations' staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [168722]

**Gillian Merron:** I have placed in the Libraries of the House details of secondments to and from the Cabinet Office since 2002-03, including the Office of the Leader of the House. The Cabinet Office does not hold the information in the detail requested for secondments before April 2002.

Costs of secondments cannot be provided as salary and pension undertakings are split according to the terms of each secondment and are therefore not held centrally. It is, however, usual for the host organisation to bear the cost for a secondee.

### Social Exclusion: Co-ordinated Policy

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans the Government have to co-ordinate the co-ordinating role of the Social Exclusion Task Force with the co-ordinating role of the Child Poverty Unit; and where responsibility lies for such co-ordination. [170148]

**Edward Miliband** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The Social Exclusion Task Force sits at the centre of Government in order to facilitate collaborative working on social exclusion across Government Departments. It works closely with a number of key units, including the Child Poverty Unit, which concentrates on child poverty issues.

### Departmental Health Insurance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many officials in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* No. 10 Downing Street have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [167938]

**Gillian Merron:** The Cabinet Office, which includes the Prime Minister's Office, does not offer private health insurance as part of its employment package.

The Civil Service Compensation Scheme and the Civil Service Injury Benefits Scheme provide support to qualifying employees who are unable to work through illness or injury.

In addition, two independent societies offer civil servants health insurance cover and treatment at competitive rates.

### Public Participation: Incentives

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average cash incentive payment or expenses payment given to participants to take part in citizens' juries was in each citizens' jury so far held. [164310]

**Edward Miliband:** The Cabinet Office held a day long deliberative forum on the draft legislative programme. 76 members of the general public attended this event, with an average payment of £207 for each person who attended, which included the cost of their accommodation and travel.

## TREASURY

### Average Earnings

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average national wage was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170956]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average national wage was in each year since 1997. (170956)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

ASHE results can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

## Average Earnings: Eastern Region

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average wage was for persons aged between 16 and 25 years *(a)* in total and *(b)* for those (i) with and (ii) without higher education qualifications in each parliamentary constituency in the Eastern region in each year since 1997. [169827]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question about what the average wage was for persons aged between 16 and 25 years *(a)* in total and *(b)* for those (i) with and (ii) without higher education qualifications in each parliamentary constituency in the Eastern region in each year since 1997. (169827)

The attached table gives the average gross weekly earnings of full-time employees aged 16-24, with and without higher education qualifications, resident in the East region and United Kingdom. The figures shown are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the three month period ending June of each year, from 1997 to 2007. The LFS sample is too small to provide estimates for each Eastern parliamentary constituency. The survey does not collect information about the earnings of self-employed people.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is the principal source of statistics on employee earnings. However, since the ASHE does not collect information about qualification levels, the estimates given in the reply are based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) microdata.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Table 1: Average gross weekly earnings of full-time[1] employees aged 16-24, with and without higher education qualification by area of residence*

*Not seasonally adjusted*

*Mean gross weekly earnings (£)*

| *Three months ending June* | *With higher education qualifications[2]* | *Without higher education qualifications[2]* | *Total[3]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *East Government Office Region* | | | |
| 1997 | 253 | 205 | 211 |
| 1998 | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| 1999 | 313 | 209 | 229 |
| 2000 | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| 2001 | 306 | 264 | 269 |
| 2002 | 294 | 247 | 255 |
| 2003 | 309 | 261 | 271 |
| 2004 | 332 | 266 | 278 |
| 2005 | 342 | 285 | 293 |
| 2006 | 323 | 304 | 308 |
| 2007 | 379 | 274 | 293 |

*Table 1: Average gross weekly earnings of full-time[1] employees aged 16-24, with and without higher education qualification by area of residence*

*Not seasonally adjusted*

*Mean gross weekly earnings (£)*

| *Three months ending June* | *With higher education qualifications[2]* | *Without higher education qualifications[2]* | *Total[3]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *UK* | | | |
| 1997 | 253 | 190 | 200 |
| 1998 | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| 1999 | 290 | 199 | 219 |
| 2000 | [4] | [4] | [4] |
| 2001 | 303 | 228 | 243 |
| 2002 | 328 | 237 | 255 |
| 2003 | 328 | 237 | 255 |
| 2004 | 321 | 249 | 264 |
| 2005 | 328 | 256 | 270 |
| 2006 | 336 | 265 | 281 |
| 2007 | 350 | 272 | 291 |

[1] The LFS full-time/Dart-time split is based on respondents' self-classification of their employment status.
[2] Higher education includes decrees or equivalent qualifications and other higher education qualifications.
[3] Total includes people whose Qualification level is unknown.
[4] Comparable estimates are not available for these periods.
*Note:*
As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.
*Source:*
Labour Force Survey.

## Average Earnings: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average wage was in Herefordshire in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170954]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average wage was in Herefordshire in each year since 1997. (170954)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

ASHE results can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

## Child Benefit: Personal Records

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his oral statement of 20 November 2007, whether the Government will reimburse clearing banks for all or part of the costs of taking measures to prevent identity theft arising as a consequence of the loss of data. [167848]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* HMRC is in regular and ongoing contact with the banks on all the issues associated with the loss of the discs.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sanctions have been taken against the HM Revenue and Customs official who posted two compact discs containing confidential child benefit information. [168208]

**Jane Kennedy:** It would be inappropriate to comment on this while there is an ongoing police investigation.

**Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures are in place to compensate individuals for losses arising from fraudulent activity using data released by HM Revenue and Customs inadvertently or by virtue of official error; and if he will make a statement. [168226]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* The police continue to have no reason to believe the data have found their way into the wrong hands and are not aware that it has been used for fraudulent purposes or criminal activity.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who will bear the cost of the police operation to trace the lost disks containing confidential child benefit information. [168289]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC will bear the incremental direct costs of the police operation to trace the two missing discs containing child benefit data.

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who will bear the costs to the banks of the increased customer activity due to the loss of two compact discs containing confidential child benefit information; and if he will make a statement. [169315]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* HMRC is in regular and ongoing contact with the banks on all the issues associated with the loss of the discs.

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the potential liability HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) may be under to provide compensation to financial institutions or individuals arising from any financial fraud committed against child benefit recipients whose identity details have been lost by HMRC. [169488]

**Jane Kennedy:** The police continue to have no reason to believe the data have found their way into the wrong hands and are not aware that they have been used for fraudulent purposes or criminal activity.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-04, on HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), how much time banks requested after receipt of data files from HMRC to ensure adequate protection of customer accounts before details of the loss of personal information was released to the public; and when he received the request. [169539]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC worked closely with the banks to inform them of the missing data and to ensure the right safeguards are in place to protect individuals. The banks asked for sufficient time to prepare for the announcement.

**Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the individuals' records missing in the transfer of information from HM Revenues and Customs are of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children. [168457]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* The missing information contains details of child benefit records for 25 million individuals, 9.5 million adult claimants and 15.5 million children and 7.25 million families.

## Crossrail Line: Finance

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the Barnett consequentials arising from Crossrail in each of the next five years; [168130]

(2) what estimate he has made of the Barnett consequentials arising from Thameslink in each of the next five years. [168131]

**Andy Burnham** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* These projects are being funded from a variety of sources including the Department for Transport. Details of the Department for Transport's funding for the years to 2010-11 are set out in Annex D3 of the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review document (Cm 7227). The Barnett formula is applied to changes in the overall Department for Transport's departmental expenditure limit. Full details of the Barnett formula are available in the Treasury publication 'Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly: Statement of Funding Policy'.

## Death: Weather

**Sir Peter Soulsby:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Leicester aged 65 years and over died of cold related illnesses between 1 October and 1 March in each of the last 10 years. [170772]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people in Leicester age 65 years and over died of a cold related illness between 1st October and 1st March in each of the last 10 years. (170772)

Most routine mortality statistics are based on a single cause of death, the underlying cause of death, which is defined by the World Health Organisation as:

(a) the disease which initiated the train of events directly leading to death; or

(b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury.

There is no agreed list of cold related illnesses. However, subnormal body temperature, hypothermia, may be mentioned on the death certificate.

There were two deaths where hypothermia was mentioned on the death certificate[1], in Leicester unitary authority[2], between 1st October and the 1st March in the years 1996/97 to 2005/06[3] (the latest year available). These deaths were in the winter of 1999/2000.

[1] Hypothermia was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 991.6 for the years 1996 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T68, for the years 2001 to 2006. Deaths were included where hypothermia was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.

[3] Figures are for deaths occurring in each year.

### Delivery Unit

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times officials from the Delivery Unit have met individuals representing *(a)* rail passengers, *(b)* the rail industry, *(c)* bus passengers, *(d)* bus companies, *(e)* coach passengers, *(f)* coach companies and *(g)* cyclists since 27 June. [170734]

**Andy Burnham:** Officials from the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit regularly meet with stakeholders relevant to its work. However, in the period since June 2007, officials from the Delivery Unit have not met individuals representing transport uses or providers.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* protocols govern the transfer of personal data between his Department and (i) other Government Departments, (ii) local authorities and (iii) other Government agencies. [167684]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]*: HMRC may only disclose information which it holds in accordance with the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005. Most transfers of data take place under statutory gateways which specify circumstances in which HMRC may disclose such information. All disclosures must be compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998. Memorandums of understanding, partnership agreements and codes of practice set out the relationship between HMRC and the Department or other body receiving the data, including the specific procedures and protocols governing the use of the information.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

### Departmental Postal Services

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many items of post sent by his Department were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997. [171284]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Reviews

**Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations and *(c)* taskforces his Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to undertake; on what date each (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; what the purpose is of each; and if he will make a statement. [170367]

**Angela Eagle:** Information on the independent reviews commissioned by the Treasury is published on the Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/IndependentReviews/independent_reviews_index.cfm.

### Excise Duties: Beer

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's excise policy on the consumption of beer in public houses and bars; and if he will make a statement; [170310]

(2) if he will freeze beer duty; and if he will make a statement; [170311]

(3) if he will commission a review of the impact of excise policy on the UK brewing industry; and if he will make a statement. [170312]

**Angela Eagle:** Decisions on the taxation of beer are made by the Chancellor at Budget taking all relevant factors into consideration, including the state of the industry and its contribution to the economy.

### Export Controls: ICT

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the IT system relating to export control at the UK's borders; what the problem with the system identified by the European Court of Auditors is; how many posts use individual ad hoc random checking in lieu of the IT system; what the cost of the IT system was in the last year for which figures are available; and what discussions he has had with the suppliers of the system on these matters. [170517]

**Jane Kennedy:** A number of interlinked IT systems are used to control exports at the UK border. HMRC regularly reviews these systems with the trade and with IT suppliers to maintain and improve effective controls and ensure that the UK continues to be a good place to do business.

In October 2004 the European Court of Auditors noted a problem involving a customs risk based system (TECS), used to target physical controls on exports claiming refunds under the Common Agricultural Policy.

This problem only affected a small percentage of CAP export declarations. The problem had been identified by customs officers prior to the audit and guidance issued in June 2004 to provide a temporary solution and a technical correction was implemented in October 2005. Routine monitoring continues to ensure the effective performance of TECS.

There are a number of factors that determine which export consignments are checked and HMRC use electronic risk-based assessments to target our resources effectively. We do not use random or ad hoc checks to identify irregularities.

TECS is an in-house developed application, in place since 1999. The application is still supported and maintained by in-house staff in HMRC.

### HM Revenue and Customs

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his statement of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-18, on HM Revenue and Customs, what assessment he has made on whether the missing computer discs remain on Government property. [168797]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The police continue to have no reason to believe the data have found their way into the wrong hands and are not aware that they have been used for fraudulent purposes or criminal activity.

### Home Responsibilities Protection

**Steve Webb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department will process the CF411 form applying for home responsibilities protection that was submitted by a constituent, Mrs. Donnelly, in September; and if he will make a statement on the length of time being taken to process CF411 forms by his Department. [170571]

**Jane Kennedy:** We cannot comment on individual cases.

Home responsibilities protection, (HRP), is processed in the national insurance contributions office. Where an application contains all the information required to process the case it can be completed within a month. It can take longer where cases require us to gather additional information and/or for us to contact the applicant or other Government Departments for further information.

### Immigrants: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many immigrants lived in Herefordshire in each year since 1997, broken down by country of origin; and if he will make a statement. [170950]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding how many immigrants lived in Herefordshire in each year since 1997, broken down by country of origin. (170950)

The data you requested are not available for Local Authorities. Census data on the population of Herefordshire by country of birth are available on the Neighbourhood Statistics website for 2001 only. The movement of individuals from overseas into Local Authorities is published on the National Statistics website. However onwards movements within the UK are not recorded and therefore data are not available for the numbers of immigrants living in a Local Authority at a particular point in time.

### Members: Correspondence

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 394W, on Members: correspondence, whether Treasury Ministers' written answers which cite earlier replies enclose hard copies of earlier replies, referred to as standard practice in the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1133W, on written questions. [170725]

**Angela Eagle:** Treasury Ministers observe the practice of enclosing earlier answers which are cited in our written answers to parliamentary questions. My answer of 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 394W, referred to a reply which the hon. Gentleman had received the previous day from the Deputy Leader of the House and a copy of that reply was enclosed with my answer.

### Migration: London Residents

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of London residents *(a)* with and *(b)* without British citizenship migrated to (i) other regions of the UK and (ii) outside the UK in each of the last 10 years. [169671]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many and what percentage of London residents (a) with British citizenship and (b) without British citizenship migrated to (i) other regions of the UK and (ii) outside the UK in each of the last 10 years. (169671)

The mid-year population estimates of people living in London are not available broken down by citizenship over the last ten years. Also, data are not available that show migration by citizenship within and between the regions of the UK.

However, data are available that show estimates of emigration by British and non-British citizens from Greater London to areas outside the UK in each of the last ten years (Table 1). These estimates are based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and are also shown as a percentage of each mid-year population estimate for Greater London.

The IPS is a sample survey and, like all survey sources, is subject to sampling and non-sampling error.

*Table 1: population and international migration time series 1997-2006—people emigrating from London[1] by citizenship and as percentage of the mid-year population estimates*

| | MYE[2] London | Emigrants[3,4] All citizenships | | British | | Non-British | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All persons | Estimate (Thousand) | Percentage of MYE | Estimate (Thousand) | Percentage of MYE | Estimate (Thousand) | Percentage of MYE |
| *London[1]* | | | | | | | |
| 1997 | 7,015 | 70 | 1.0 | 25 | 0.4 | 45 | 0.6 |
| 1998 | 7,065 | 68 | 1.0 | 22 | 0.3 | 46 | 0.7 |
| 1999 | 7,154 | 84 | 1.2 | 20 | 0.3 | 63 | 0.9 |
| 2000 | 7,237 | 84 | 1.2 | 30 | 0.4 | 55 | 0.8 |
| 2001 | 7,322 | 78 | 1.1 | 25 | 0.3 | 53 | 0.7 |
| 2002 | 7,362 | 89 | 1.2 | 27 | 0.4 | 62 | 0.8 |
| 2003 | 7,364 | 88 | 1.2 | 27 | 0.4 | 61 | 0.8 |
| 2004 | 7,389 | 79 | 1.1 | 33 | 0.4 | 46 | 0.6 |
| 2005 | 7,456 | 87 | 1.2 | 27 | 0.4 | 60 | 0.8 |
| 2006 | 7,512 | 111 | 1.5 | 31 | 0.4 | 79 | 1.1 |

[1] The Government Office Region of London definition has been used, i.e. Greater London.
[2] MYE are the revised mid year population estimates and are rounded to the nearest thousand. Emigration data are for calendar year, rounded to the nearest thousand.
[3] Emigrants are the International Passenger Survey estimates for calendar year, rounded to the nearest thousand.
[4] The international migration estimates have been revised using a consistent methodology based primarily on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to allocate migration to the constituent countries of the UK, and to Government Office Regions within England.
*Notes*:
1. Figures have been rounded independently and may not add to totals.
2. Percentages have been calculated on unrounded data.

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of British citizens migrated from other regions of the UK to London in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age. [169672]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many and what percentage of British citizens migrated from other regions of the UK to London in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (a) sex and (b) age. (169672)

Estimates of British citizens migrating from other regions of the UK to London are not available because the data sources used by ONS do not differentiate such internal migrants on the basis of their citizenship.

## Minimum Wage: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in West Chelmsford constituency were paid less than the minimum wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [169769]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people in West Chelmsford Parliamentary Constituency were paid less than the minimum wage in the latest period for which figures are available. (169769)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid below the national minimum wage by Parliamentary Constituency are not available. However, I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage by Government Office Region.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

*Estimates of UK jobs paid below the national minimum wage by Government office region in 2007*

| Government office region | Thousand | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| North-east | 16 | 2 |
| North-west (including Merseyside) | 32 | 1 |
| Yorks and Humber | 24 | 1 |
| East midlands | 25 | 1 |
| West midlands | 26 | 1 |
| Eastern | 27 | 1 |
| London | 23 | 1 |
| South-east | 32 | 1 |
| South-west | 25 | 1 |
| Wales | 17 | 2 |
| Scotland | 30 | 1 |
| Northern Ireland | 15 | 2 |
| All | 292 | 1 |

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

## Office for National Statistics: Data Collection

**Greg Clark:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on market testing the data collection activities of the Office of National Statistics; and if he will make a statement. [170130]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) policy for market testing data collection activities. (170130)

ONS has a policy of using in house data collection for the majority of its business and household survey data collection activities. We review our overall data collection strategy periodically to identify potential opportunities to outsource or market test activities. There are circumstances where data collection is outsourced where it provides better value for money, subject to the quality of the data being maintained and strict confidentiality requirements being assured.

We tender for Government surveys commissioned by other Government Departments in competition with other survey organisations and have recently been successful in winning contracts.

Examples of data collection activities contracted to private suppliers include retail price levels for the Consumer Prices Index and some aspects of the 2011 Population Census.

## Personal Income: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average household income was in Herefordshire in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [170955]

(2) what the average household income was in Herefordshire in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [170953]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions on average household income in Herefordshire. (170953, 170955).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of regional gross disposable household income (GDHI)[1] using official statistical geographies known as Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS). This is income of the household and non profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sector rather than an average income of households. The County of Herefordshire is in a NUTS3 region and GDHI per head estimates exist up to 2005. A consistent time series exists back to 1995.

These data are at current prices and therefore inflation is not taken into account.

The data table contains estimates of gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head for the NUTS3 region of the County of Herefordshire.

[1] Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is the amount of money that households have available for spending or saving after deductions and expenditure associated with income, e.g. taxes and social contributions and provision for future pension income.

*Gross disposable household income £ per head of population[1,2] for the county of Herefordshire 1995-2005*

| | £ per head |
|---|---|
| 1995 | 7,783 |
| 1996 | 8,218 |
| 1997 | 8,681 |
| 1998 | 8,989 |
| 1999 | 9,462 |
| 2000 | 9,988 |
| 2001 | 10,697 |
| 2002 | 11,067 |
| 2003 | 11,558 |
| 2004 | 11,902 |
| 2005 | 12,414 |

[1] Population measure is based upon mid-year estimate for total population.

[2] Estimates are consistent with the national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households sectors as published in Blue Book 2006.

## Personal Income: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average household income in Suffolk was in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [171616]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on average household income in Suffolk. (171616).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of regional gross disposable household income (GDHI)[1] using official statistical geographies known as Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS). This is income of the household and non profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sector rather than an average income of households. Suffolk is a NUTS3 region and GDHI per head estimates exist up to 2005. A consistent time series exists back to 1995.

These data are at current prices and therefore inflation is not taken into account.

The data table contains estimates of gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head for the NUTS3 region of Suffolk.

[1] Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is the amount of money that households have available for spending or saving after deductions and expenditure associated with income, e.g. taxes and social contributions and provision for future pension income.

*Gross disposable household income per head of population[1, 2] for Suffolk 1997 to 2005*

| | £ per head |
|---|---|
| 1997 | 9,254 |
| 1998 | 9,530 |
| 1999 | 9,903 |
| 2000 | 10,483 |
| 2001 | 11,379 |
| 2002 | 11,864 |
| 2003 | 12,391 |
| 2004 | 12,798 |
| 2005 | 13,294 |

[1] Population measure is based upon mid-year estimate for total population.

[2] Estimates are consistent with the national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households sectors as published in Blue Book 2006.

## Population: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of *(a)* males and *(b)* females residing in London were (i) under five,

(ii) between five and 15, (iii) between 15 and 20, (iv) between 20 and 44, (v) between 45 and 65 and (vi) over 66 years of age in each of the last 10 years available, broken down by borough. [169674]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding how many and what percentage of (a) males and (b) females residing in London were (i) under five, (ii) between five and 15 (iii) between 15 and 20 (iv) between 20 and 44:(v) between 45 and 65 and (vi) over 66 years of age in each of the last 10 years available, broken down by borough. (169674)

Table 1 in the attached table shows the male and female population aged 0 to 4, 5 to 14, 15 to19, 20 to 44, 45 to 65 and 66 plus for mid-1997 to mid-2006, for Greater London and its boroughs.

Table 2 in the attached table shows the percentage of the population for males and females aged 0 to 4, 5 to 14, 15 to 19, 20 to 44, 45 to 65 and 66 plus for mid-1997 to mid-2006, for Greater London and its boroughs. A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

The mid-2006 population estimates are the latest available.

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population turnover rates were of each London borough in each of the last five years, broken down by age group. [169675]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what the population turnover rates were of each London borough in each of the last five years, broken down by population age group. (169675)

ONS publish migration indicators at Local Authority level that show the total volume of migration to and from the local authority per 1000 head of population. These data provide a measure of population churn due to migration but they are not available by age. Therefore the population turnover rates by age that you requested cannot be provided.

### Population: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the population of Herefordshire in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [170951]

(2) what estimate he has made of the population of Herefordshire aged 65 years and over in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170952]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been; asked to reply to your questions regarding what estimate has been made of the population of Herefordshire in each year since 1997 and what estimate has been made of the population of Herefordshire aged 65 years and over in each year since 1997. (170951, 170952)

Table 1 shows the total population and the population aged 65 and over for Herefordshire for the years requested.

The latest population estimates available are for mid-2006.

*Table 1: Total population and population aged 65 and over for Herefordshire.*

| *Mid-year* | *All persons* | *65+* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 168,000 | 32,000 |
| 1998 | 171,000 | 32,000 |
| 1999 | 172,000 | 33,000 |
| 2000 | 174,000 | 33,000 |
| 2001 | 175,000 | 34,000 |
| 2002 | 175,000 | 34,000 |
| 2003 | 176,000 | 35,000 |
| 2004 | 177,000 | 35,000 |
| 2005 | 177,000 | 36,000 |
| 2006 | 178,000 | 36,000 |

*Note:*
Data are rounded to the nearest 1,000.
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

### Retail Prices Index

**Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the effectiveness of the retail price index in measuring the real cost of living; and if he will make a statement. [168621]

**Angela Eagle:** The Chancellor and other Treasury Ministers receive a wide number of representations on economic and statistical issues. The Government believe that the maintenance of low and stable inflation is a crucial platform for increasing economic prosperity and achieving an affordable cost of living for all. Under this Government's monetary policy framework, the UK has benefited from its longest period of sustained low and stable inflation since the 1960s. GDP in the UK has now expanded for 61 consecutive quarters, the longest unbroken expansion on record.

### Self-employed

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of people in the UK were self-employed in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170959]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many and what percentage of people in the UK were self-employed in each year since 1997. (170959)

Not seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted estimates for self-employed people are published each month in the Labour Market Statistics First Release in table 3. Please visit the following link;

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1944

The attached table has been derived from the published seasonally adjusted table 3. It shows the number of people aged 16 and over in the category requested for the three month period ending September each year, from 1997 to 2007. These estimates are seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

*Employment[1] and self-employment: United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted, July-September 1997 to 2007*

| | All in employment (Age 16 and over) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Three months ending September each year* | *Total in employment (Thousand)* | *Self-employed (Thousand)* | *Self-employed as a percentage of all those in employment* |
| 1997 | 26,572 | 3,453 | 13 |
| 1998 | 26,832 | 3,302 | 12 |
| 1999 | 27,206 | 3,307 | 12 |
| 2000 | 27,542 | 3,258 | 12 |
| 2001 | 27,705 | 3,311 | 12 |
| 2002 | 27,913 | 3,355 | 12 |
| 2003 | 28,214 | 3,646 | 13 |
| 2004 | 28,466 | 3,585 | 13 |
| 2005 | 28,834 | 3,667 | 13 |
| 2006 | 29,044 | 3,768 | 13 |
| 2007 | 29,223 | 3,837 | 13 |

Relationship between columns: 3=2/1'100

[1] People aged 16 or over are classed as in employment by the LFS if they have done at least one hour of paid work (as an employee or self-employed) in the week prior to their LFS interview or if they have a job that they are temporarily away from. People who do unpaid work in a family business and people on Government-supported training and employment programmes are also included according to the International Labour Organisation convention.

The Labour Force Survey is a survey of the population of private households, student halls of residence and NHS accommodation. See Concepts and Definitions.

*Source:*

Labour Force Survey

### Self-employed: Herefordshire

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of people in Herefordshire were self-employed in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [170958]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what percentage of people in Herefordshire were self-employed in each year since 1997. (170958)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The table attached shows numbers of self-employed people and these as a percentage of all employed in the Herefordshire county, for the 12 month periods ending in February from 1998 to 2004 from the annual local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2007 from the APS.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Changes over time should be treated with particular caution.

*Self-employed people resident in Herefordshire county*

| *12 months ending:* | *Self-employed (thousand)* | *Self-employed as a percentage of all employed* |
|---|---|---|
| *February* | | |
| 1998 | 16 | 19 |
| 1999 | 16 | 21 |
| 2000 | 11 | 15 |
| 2001 | 17 | 20 |
| 2002 | 15 | 18 |
| 2003 | 15 | 18 |
| 2004 | 16 | 19 |
| *March* | | |
| 2005 | 18 | 20 |
| 2006 | 19 | 22 |
| 2007 | 17 | 20 |

*Note:*

Estimates are subject to sampling variability.

Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

*Source:*

Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

### Social Investment Bank

**Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Social Investment Bank to make its first loan; and whether *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* local strategic partnerships will be able to borrow from the Social Investment Bank. [168291]

**Jane Kennedy:** The consultation document on the Government's proposals for a distribution mechanism for unclaimed assets stated that the Government's priorities for spending in England would be youth services, followed by financial capability and inclusion. In addition, the document stated:

> "Resources permitting, the Government would also like to see some of the available assets in England used to invest in the long-term sustainability of the third sector and to boost social investment."

Clause 17 of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill currently before the House of Lords will therefore enable dormant account funds to be allocated to a social investment wholesaler, should resources permit.

### Unemployment: Chelmsford

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 18 to 24 year olds were unemployed in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Chelmsford local authority area in each September from 2001 to 2007. [170300]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many 18 to 24 year olds were unemployed in (a) West Chelmsford constituency and (b) Chelmsford local authority area in each September from 2001 to 2007. (170300)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. These are annual surveys and the estimates derived from them cover twelve month periods, rather than a particular month.

However, from the annual LFS and the APS, there are only two periods in the last 6 years where the sample sizes are sufficient to provide an estimate of the number of unemployed

18 to 24 year olds resident in the West Chelmsford constituency or Chelmsford local authority. These data are from the Annual local area LFS for the 12 month period ending in February for 2003 and from the APS for the 12 month period ending in March for 2005 as shown in Table 1.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2 shows the number of JSA claimants aged 18 to 24, resident in West Chelmsford constituency and Chelmsford local authority, claiming in September for 2001 to 2007. The numbers are also shown as the percentage of all persons aged 18-24 resident in the areas. Percentages for the West Chelmsford constituency cannot be shown, as the working age population estimates for parliamentary constituencies cannot be broken down into different age groups.

*Table 1: Unemployed persons, aged 18 to 24, resident in the West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency and Chelmsford local authority*

| | West Chelmsford constituency | | Chelmsford local authority | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *12 months ending*[1] | *Level (Thousand)* | *Rate*[2] *(Percentage)* | *Level (Thousand)* | *Rate*[2] *(Percentage)* |
| February 2003 | [3] | [3] | 1 | 12 |
| March 2005 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 9 |

[1] Only periods where sample sizes are sufficient to provide estimates.
[2] Unemployed persons as the percentage of the number of economically active persons aged 18 to 24.
[3] Sample too small to provide estimate. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
*Source:*
Annual Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

*Table 2: Number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance (JSA) aged 18 to 24 in September of each year from 2001 to 2007*

| | West Chelmsford constituency | | Chelmsford local authority | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *As at 1 September each year* | *Number of JSA claimants* | *Proportion*[1] | *Number of JSA claimants* | *Proportion*[1] |
| 2001 | 180 | n/a | 270 | 2 |
| 2002 | 195 | n/a | 275 | 2 |
| 2003 | 215 | n/a | 310 | 2 |
| 2004 | 190 | n/a | 275 | 2 |
| 2005 | 245 | n/a | 355 | 3 |
| 2006 | 280 | n/a | 405 | 3 |
| 2007 | 255 | n/a | 370 | 3 |

n/a = Not available.
[1] Number of JSA claimants aged 18 to 24 as the percentage of resident population aged 18 to 24 of area.
*Notes:*
1. Claimant count data by age includes computerised claims only.
2. Dataset rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
Jobcentre Plus administrative data.

## Unemployment: Greater London

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many the 16, the 17, the 18, the 19, the 20, the 21, *(g)* 22, *(h)* 23 and *(i)* 24 year old (i) women and (ii) men were not in education, employment or training in each of the last 10 years available, broken down by London borough. [169824]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking how many *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19, *(e)* 20, *(f)* 21, *(g)* 22, *(h)* 23 and *(i)* 24 year old (i) women and (ii) were not in education, employment or training in each of the last 10 years available, broken down by London borough. (169824).

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

## World Customs Organisation: European Commission

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the European Commission is seeking membership of the World Customs Organisation; what negotiating rights the European Commission will have in relation to EU member states; and what other rights and obligations will accrue to the Commission. [170662]

**Jane Kennedy:** The European Community first applied to become a member of the WCO in 2001 because it has competence for most international trade matters. The WCO's establishing convention does not currently provide for customs and economic unions to become members and will need to be modified. This will take some time, so interim membership arrangements have been put in place and came into effect for the EC on 1 July 2007.

As a member of the WCO, the EC is entitled to participate in all WCO bodies which are open to general membership. On issues subject to Community competence (which covers the majority of the WCO's work), the EC will cast a number of votes equal to the number of EU member states present at the meeting. For matters falling under joint or national competence, member states will continue to speak at meetings and to vote: the EC will not act on behalf of member states on these matters. However, member states and the European Commission will try to coordinate an agreed position where appropriate in order to present a unified view at WCO meetings.

# Written Answers to Questions

*Thursday 6 December 2007*

## BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

### Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171321]

**Mr. Hutton:** Chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

### Engineering: Skilled Workers

**Mr. Olner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of future engineering skills needs. [166294]

**Mr. Lammy:** I have been asked to reply.

The assessment of future engineering skills needs is led by SEMTA, the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for science, engineering and manufacturing technologies sector. SEMTA has produced sector skills agreements (SSAs) for the aerospace, automotive, electronics and marine sectors in 2005-06. Each SSA identifies current workforce development and skills needs, sets out future skills needs and key skills requirements. SSAs are supported by an action plan which identifies the proposed ways in which the needs will be met. Government are working with the SSC and many other delivery partners to take these actions forward.

Summary documents on the Aerospace, Automotive and Electronics SSA and the Marine SSA have been placed in the Library. Full reports of these can be viewed on the SEMTA website at:

www.semta.org.uk.

### Export Credit Guarantees: Iran

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 251W, on Export Credit Guarantees: Iran, what UK policy is on whether UN Security Council Resolution 1747 applies to the provision of export credit guarantees. [167320]

**Malcolm Wicks:** UK policy is that UN Security Council Resolution 1747 does not apply to the provision of export credits. The UK has pressed, both at the UN and the EU, for constraints on the provision of new export credit support for Iran, since multilateral imposition would have the maximum impact. We were unable to secure an explicit reference to export credits in UN Security Council Resolution 1747 and, like other countries, have concluded that export credits are not therefore covered by the Resolution.

We continue to press for multilateral constraints on new export credits to be among the sanctions options that may be included in a further UN Security Council Resolution and EU Common Position. Consistent with this stance, ECGD is reviewing its position on Iran and has stopped processing applications for new cover.

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 251W, on export credit guarantees: Iran, what form the Export Credits Guarantee Department market review of Iran takes; what criteria are being assessed in the review; and when he expects a decision to be made. [167322]

**Malcolm Wicks:** All markets are kept under regular review by ECGD to determine their riskiness.

ECGD's formal risk assessment criteria for any sovereign risk includes the capacity and willingness of the country in question to meet its debt commitments (i.e. the risk of default) taking account of any uncertainties in its international relations; how long a default might last were it to occur (which informs our judgement on the risk of potential claims); and the likely loss that could be incurred. In addition, for riskier markets, ECGD reviews on an ongoing basis whether cover and premium policies and case handling arrangements remain appropriate.

A decision on risk by ECGD is also subject to wider UK foreign policy objectives.

### Information: Fees and Charges

**Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which stakeholders the Cambridge university academics commissioned to conduct a study on information pricing by his Department *(a)* have met and *(b)* plan to meet. [166008]

**Mr. Thomas:** The terms of reference produced at the time of the tender process is being placed in the Library of the House. This document has been made freely available to parties that request it.

### Post Offices: Closures

**Charles Hendry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many responses have been received to the six-week consultation over proposed post office closures in the Greater Glasgow, Central Scotland, Argyll and Bute Area plan. [172043]

**Mr. McFadden:** This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

## CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

### Academies: Teachers

**Helen Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what consideration he has given to requiring academies to operate according to the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document; what recent representations he has received on this matter; and whether he plans to consult on it. [169308]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 29 November 2007]:* Academies are independent schools. One of their key features is the freedom to be innovative in the way they reward and retain staff. That said, we know that many Academies base their pay and conditions on the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document. We have no plans to make that compulsory and have received few representations on the subject.

### Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months. [171254]

**Kevin Brennan:** The spend on *(a)* business class flights in the 12 month period October 2006 to September 2007 for the former Department for Education and Skills was £241,936 and *(b)* first class flights in the 12 month period October 2006 to September 2007 for the former Department for Education and Skills was £24,658.

### Care Homes: Children

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance has been issued to *(a)* local authority children's services, *(b)* local authority children's homes and *(c)* privately run children's homes on their responsibility to provide personal individual support for looked after children exhibiting difficulty at school either in relation to bullying or educational matters. [170111]

**Kevin Brennan:** Improving the education of children in care is the highest priority for the Government. The Children Act 2004 placed local authorities under a specific duty to promote the educational achievement of all children in their care. In 2005, we issued statutory guidance on the duty on to promote the educational achievement of looked after children, which set out how local authorities should meet this duty. This included guidance on how they should ensure children's homes support the education of children in care.

The National Minimum Standards (NMS) for children's homes make it clear that measures must be in place within local authority and privately run children's homes to address bullying. In particular, there must be a policy on preventing and countering bullying which is known to staff and children. This includes bullying that may occur outside the home.

We recognise that the education of children and young people in care is not good enough. "Care Matters: Time for Change", published in June 2006, set out a range of measures to improve the attainment of those in care and, in particular, personalise their learning in order to narrow the gap between children in care and all children. This work is underpinned by a public service agreement to narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers, and the provisions in the Children and Young Persons Bill.

Following the passage of the Children and Young Persons Bill we are committed to revising the Children Act 1989 guidance and National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes. This will include guidance on how local authorities and children's homes should support the education of children and young people in care and ensure that those experiencing difficulty receive the support that they need.

### Children: Databases

**James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what reviews have been undertaken by external consultants of the security measures proposed for the ContactPoint database; and what recommendations were made in those reviews. [170027]

**Kevin Brennan:** ContactPoint has been subject to scrutiny at key stages throughout its development. My Department's own Chief Security Officer—external to and independent from the project, has checked the Security Policy, the security architecture, and our risk assessment, and found them to be appropriate.

The news on 20 November of the loss of large volumes of child benefit data from HMRC has raised questions about the safety of large scale personal data in other Government systems, including ContactPoint. ContactPoint will not contain any financial information (such as bank details) or case information (such as case notes, assessments, medical records, exam results or subjective observations).

On 20 November, the department conducted an assessment of how personal data are stored and protected in the Department. As a result of that assessment, I am confident that we have very robust procedures in place.

On 21 November, the Prime Minister confirmed this approach when he asked all departments to check their procedures for the storage and use of data. In light of the security breach at the HMRC, we are continuing to check our procedures to ensure standards are as high as they can be. To this end, on 20 November, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families decided to commission an independent assessment of its security procedures. This will be undertaken by Deloitte.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will place in the Library copies of the regulations, guidance and directions, on the operation of databases made under section 9 of the Children Act 2004; [170208]

(2) what the outcome was of the feasibility work undertaken to identify the best source of a unique identifying number in relation to databases established under the Children Act 2004. [170209]

**Kevin Brennan:** In relation to question 170208, The Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations (SI2007/2182) and the accompanying explanatory memorandum are available from the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) website:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20072182.htm, and:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/em2007/uksiem 20072182_en.pdf

and can be accessed from the Library.

The Department consulted on draft ContactPoint Guidance between 4 May and 27 July 2007. I am arranging for a copy of the consultation draft of the ContactPoint Guidance to be supplied to the Library. We plan to publish the Guidance in June/July 2008 in advance of deployment to the Early Adopter local authorities in September/October 2008.

Section 12 of the Children Act 2004 provides for the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to establish and operate a database (to be known as ContactPoint) and to make regulations and issue guidance and directions in relation to its establishment and operation. The Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007 were approved by affirmative resolution in this House on 23 July 2007, and in another place on 18 July 2007, and have been in force since 1 August 2007. No directions have been issued under Section 12 of the Children Act 2004.

In relation to question 170209, the number to be used for identifying child records on the ContactPoint system will be an entirely new and unique number generated from the child reference number by 'electronic code book encryption'.

This new number will thus be based on, but entirely different to the child reference number, which underpins the child benefit system, such that the unique link between the two numbers will be securely and separately held. This is the strongest form of such encryption, and no pattern or link can be made between these two numbers.

### Children: Day Care

**Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the levels of availability of childcare for children aged 12 and upwards. [170676]

**Beverley Hughes:** Local authorities are required to complete by 31 March 2008 assessments of the sufficiency of child care in their areas in relation to children of all ages, covering supply of places, demand for places and gaps between the two. Their assessments will provide the basis for their duty to secure sufficient child care for all working parents from 1 April 2008.

The Government do not collect this data centrally because child care markets are essentially very local, and local authority level assessments aggregated nationally would be potentially misleading. Sufficiency, of course, is not just about numbers but about a host of criteria including accessibility, flexibility and affordability, as well as quantity.

Secondary schools, as part of the development of extended services, are expected to provide young people access to a varied menu of activities in a safe place to be, before and after school from 8 am to 6 pm and during the school holidays in response to demand. At present, 1,720 secondary schools are providing access to the full core offer of extended services.

The core offer in secondary schools comprises: a varied menu to activities in a safe place to be, parenting support, swift and easy access to a wide range of specialist support services and community access to school facilities.

### Children: Speech Therapy

**Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the merits of integrating the Communication Trust's Speech, Language and Communication Framework into the Children's Workforce Development Council's Integrated Qualifications Framework. [169781]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has not made an assessment. It is for those awarding bodies developing qualifications for inclusion on the Integrated Qualifications Framework (IQF), in conjunction with sector bodies, such as the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC), to determine what skills and knowledge is covered by qualifications. The Integrated Qualifications Framework (IQF) is currently in its testing phase and will not be fully operational until 2010.

CWDC and the Children's Workforce Network are working together to consider how best to meet the needs of children and young people with a range of disabilities, including speech, language and communication.

### Departmental Consultants

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163805]

**Kevin Brennan:** Our records show the total number of live contracts with external consultants as at 1 October 2007 was 256; the estimated value of these contracts for the current financial year is £40.5 million; and the estimated value of these contracts over their contractual period is £89.9 million.

To list these contracts to estimate the forecasted total value for each contract and the duration of each contract would all exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many breaches of data protection security there were in his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will provide details of each breach; [168831]

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last 36 months; and what action was taken after each occurrence. [169894]

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data; [169367]

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when each electronic database held by his Department containing personal information on members of the general public was first created; [169279]

(2) how many staff in his Department have access to electronic databases which contain personal information on members of the general public, broken down by grade; [169281]

(3) how many security breaches regarding access to personal data occurred within his Department in each year since 1997. [169280]

**Kevin Brennan:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the special advisers employed by his Department, setting out in each case their *(a)* responsibilities and *(b)* pay bands. [169835]

**Kevin Brennan:** The names and pay bands of all special advisers are contained in the Prime Minister's written statement to the House of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 148-49WS.

Their duties are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

### English Language

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the additional demands that children without English as their first language place on primary and secondary schools. [169550]

**Jim Knight:** At January 2007, there were 789,720 children in primary and secondary schools with English as an additional language (EAL): that is 120,240 or some 18 per cent. higher than in 2004. EAL children comprise 12 per cent. of the whole population, up from 9 per cent. in 2004. Schools need to help such children acquire fluency in English as early as possible so that they can access the full curriculum.

The Government provide funding for new arrivals and EAL children in schools through two main routes. The first is an element within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for primary schools which was some £256 million in 2004-05, rising to £299 million in 2007-08, with a further rise to over £330 million in 2010-11—an 11 per cent. real terms increase on the 2004-05 level. The second is a substantial provision for EAL through the ring fenced Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG), which has risen from £162 million in 2004-05 to £179 million in 2007-08 and will rise to £206 million by 2010-11—a 9 per cent. increase on the 2004-05 level. In addition an Exceptional Circumstances Grant (ECG) has been introduced to reflect changes in local authorities' pupil numbers which occur after the three year indicative allocations of DSG have been announced. It has three elements covering: an increase of more than 2.5 per cent. in overall pupil numbers; an increase of more than 2.5 per cent. in the proportion of children with EAL; and a one-off payment to authorities with EAL proportions below 10 per cent. which experience an increase in their EAL proportion of more than 2.5 per cent.

These increases in funding form part of the substantial overall increase in school funding: over the past 10 years since 1997, overall per pupil revenue funding for schools has increased by 67 per cent. in real terms. We expect local authorities to be able to manage new pressures from within these very substantial increases.

### EU Lisbon Strategy

**Mr. Greg Knight:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to meet the objectives of the EU Lisbon strategy. [170308]

**Jim Knight** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The contribution of education and training to the Lisbon agenda is set out in the Education and Training 2010 Work Programme, and this Department plays an active role within the four main strands of the programme: setting priority areas for action; supporting peer learning and exchange of best practice; benchmarking progress; and developing common tools to support EU mobility and transparency of qualifications.

Furthermore, the UK's contribution to the EU Ministerial Education and Youth Councils and the official level working groups is rooted in the Lisbon Strategy, as this is where we see the EU as adding the most value. In particular, we are working to ensure that education and youth policy complements those policies being developed in other Lisbon spheres such as employment, social policy, and economic and financial affairs. This will help member states develop policies which will equip their citizens with the education and skills needed to thrive in a knowledge-based economy.

### Free School Meals

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students in each London borough were eligible to receive free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available. [169239]

**Jim Knight:** The available information has been placed in the Library. The tables have been taken from the Statistical First Release "Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final)" which is available at:
http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml.

### Free School Meals: Greater London

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency and *(b)* each London borough were eligible for free school meals in each year since 1997. [169681]

**Jim Knight:** The requested information has been placed in the Library.

### GCSE

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of more modular examinations at GCSE and A level on examination results since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [163535]

**Jim Knight:** It is the responsibility of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to regulate the public examinations system, and review standards. The QCA seeks views on the effect of modular examinations through consultations with stakeholders and by monitoring standards. However, it is difficult to disentangle the impact of modularisation from that of any other changes to GCSEs and A levels.

QCA has worked to ensure that standards are consistent and results have improved. Anecdotally, at A level the introduction of AS has helped this by engaging more candidates from the outset and, by allowing them to take a wider range of subjects, candidates concentrate on the subjects they are best at for the full A level.

QCA sought views on the effect of modular examinations as part of the consultation on GCSE criteria which was run earlier this year. The results of the consultation will be available on the QCA website, www.qca.org.uk, in mid-December.

### Head Teachers: Qualifications

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers have been appointed without the National Professional Qualification for Headship as existing head teachers changing schools, in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [169795]

**Jim Knight:** We do not hold data on how many head teachers have moved to a second or subsequent headship post since 2004 and do not hold the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH), as there is no tracking of teacher movements across the system. It is compulsory for all new heads in maintained schools or non-maintained special schools to have, or be working towards, NPQH if they took up their first headship post in a local authority maintained school or a special school after April 2004. It will be mandatory to hold the qualification (rather than be working towards it) from 1 April 2009. However, it is not a requirement for head teachers who took up their first headship post prior to April 2004 to hold NPQH in their existing post, or if appointed to a second or subsequent headship post.

### Higher Education: British Overseas Territories

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many students from British Overseas Territories have obtained places at London universities in each year since 1997; [168430]

(2) how many students from British Crown Dependencies have obtained places at London universities in each year since 1997. [168431]

**Bill Rammell:** I have been asked to reply.

The latest available information is given in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

*Entrants to Higher Education Institutions in London [1] from British Overseas Territories [2] and British Crown Dependencies [3] by Level of Study Academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06*

| *Level of study* | *Academic year* | *Entrants from British Overseas Territories* | *Entrants from British Crown Dependencies* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Postgraduate | 1997/98 | 15 | 30 |
| | 1998/99 | 25 | 30 |
| | 1999/2000 | 10 | 25 |
| | 2000/01 | 20 | 30 |
| | 2001/02 | 10 | 35 |
| | 2002/03 | 20 | 50 |
| | 2003/04 | 20 | 60 |
| | 2004/05 | 35 | 50 |
| | 2005/06 | 30 | 45 |
| Undergraduate | 1997/98 | 10 | 75 |
| | 1998/99 | 20 | 80 |
| | 1999/2000 | 15 | 115 |
| | 2000/01 | 20 | 110 |
| | 2001/02 | 15 | 100 |
| | 2002/03 | 15 | 135 |
| | 2003/04 | 15 | 110 |
| | 2004/05 | 20 | 105 |
| | 2005/06 | 20 | 120 |
| Total | 1997/98 | 25 | 105 |
| | 1998/99 | 45 | 105 |
| | 1999/2000 | 25 | 140 |
| | 2000/01 | 40 | 140 |
| | 2001/02 | 30 | 135 |
| | 2002/03 | 35 | 185 |
| | 2003/04 | 40 | 170 |
| | 2004/05 | 50 | 155 |
| | 2005/06 | 50 | 165 |

[1] Includes all Higher Education Institutions in London Government Office Region.
[2] British Overseas Territories are—Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Isles, St. Helena and its Dependencies, Turks and Caicos Islands. But also Gibraltar and the Sovereign Base Areas of Cyprus, students from which are counted as EU nationals for fee purposes.
[3] British Crown Dependencies are—Isle of Man Channel Islands: Bailiwick of Jersey, Bailiwick of Guernsey (including Guernsey and its dependencies)
*Note:*
Numbers are on a Snapshot basis as at 1 December, and have been rounded to the nearest 5.
*Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

## Mathematics: GCSE

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage score was required for a GCSE pass in mathematics at Grade A for each examination board in each year from 1997 to 2007. [163306]

**Jim Knight:** This information is not held centrally. The process awarding bodies go through to ensure that standards are consistent means that there will be variations in terms of raw marks required between different awarding bodies' qualifications and from year-to-year.

It is for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as the qualifications regulator to oversee the awarding process to ensure that standards are comparable both between different qualifications and over time. The Chief Executive of QCA, Dr. Ken Boston, has written to the hon. Member on this issue and a copy of his reply and the report mentioned have been placed in the Library.

*Letter from Ken Boston, dated 20 November 2007:*

*GCSE and A level grades*

Thank you for your letter of 30 October following the answer that Jim Knight MP provided in response to your Parliamentary Question.

Although Jim Knight's response indicated that the QCA is responsible for maintaining standards across qualifications and over time, it also stated that the level of information on grade boundaries that you are asking for is not held centrally. I am afraid that this means that QCA does not hold the information either. It is the awarding bodies that offer GCSE and A level qualifications who are responsible for setting grade boundary marks in each subject for every examination series.

Although I am unable to provide the data you request, I think it would be helpful to explain how the number of marks required to achieve a grade in any particular examination series is determined and which conclusions can be drawn from variations in the number of raw marks required to achieve a particular grade boundary each year.

For each discrete unit within a qualification (for example, there are currently six units in most A level qualifications) the mark required to achieve a particular grade is determined by an awarding body's awarding committee according to a process that is set out in a code of practice issued by QCA. An awarding committee comprises the most senior examiners for a qualification. They are required to use professional judgment, supported by technical and statistical data, to ensure that standards are carried forward from year to year. In other words, the committee must ensure that the same level of performance will achieve the same grade across different years. However, as different question papers are used in each examination series it is possible that the demand of the question paper might not be identical year-on-year. To take into account unforeseen variances in the demand of question papers between years, the awarding committee may adjust the number of marks required to achieve a particular grade in any given year in order to ensure standards are maintained.

The awarding bodies that offer GCSE and A levels are AQA, Edexcel and OCR in England, WJEC in Wales and CCEA in Northern Ireland. Between them, each of these awarding bodies offers up to 50 different subjects at GCSE and 40 different subjects at A level. Some awarding bodies offer more than one qualification in each subject per qualification type. In addition there are now opportunities to sit GCSE examinations in March, November and June and A level examinations in January and June.

Therefore, answering your question would require the collection of an extremely large amount of data in the form of a list of each grade A and grade C boundary mark for each of the hundreds of GCSE and A level specifications in each of the examination series in each of the 10 years since 1997. The only inference that could realistically be taken from such data would be that mark boundaries have varied and, indeed must vary, in order to maintain standards. Furthermore, raw mark grade boundary data could also be misleading as they would not necessarily indicate where there have been changes in the total number of marks available in a particular examination component.

On previous occasions, QCA has investigated the issue of changes in grade boundaries to look at whether a change in grade boundary marks indicated a change in standards. We looked at a number of grade boundaries in English, English Literature and Mathematics over a number of years. In addition, QCA collected data from a wide range of GCSE and A level examinations in a single year. We concluded that changes in grade boundaries did not indicate a change in standards and that it would not be necessary for us to expand our investigation or collect data from a wider sample. I attach a copy of the report on this work.

However, all of this is in relation to raw mark grade boundaries only. A levels and modular GCSEs allow candidates to sit component parts of the same qualification in different examination series and because papers in different years will be of slightly differing demand a method of scaling is required to ensure that the same level of achievement would receive the same grade across examination series. This scale is the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) and it enables units for which different amounts of marks are available to be aggregated across or within an examination series to give an overall grade. The percentage of UMS marks required to achieve a given grade does not vary. At GCSE the following percentage of the maximum uniform marks available for a component is required to achieve a particular grade: A* - 90% of the available uniform marks; A - 80%; B - 70%; C - 60%; D - 50%; E - 40%; F - 30%; G - 20%. At A level to following percentage of maximum uniform marks are required to achieve a particular grade: A - 80%; B - 70; C - 60%; D - 50%; E - 40%.

Although QCA is unable to answer your question in the terms in which you asked it, I hope that I have been able to provide you with information that you find to be of use.

## Opinion Leader Research

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997 was; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department. [165261]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department has contracted with Opinion Leader Research through the Central Office of Information (COI) Market Research Framework on 15 occasions since 2001. The details of those contracts are shown in the following table.

In addition, the Department also contracted with Opinion Leader Research through its own tendering processes to deliver, as part of the 10 Year Childcare Strategy, Parents' Forums aimed to inform the consultation process on the strategy. The cost was £70,172.14. It was tendered in January 2005 and awarded on 25 January 2005. The project was carried out and a report on findings delivered to the Department on 23 March 2005.

Details of contacts with Opinion Leader Research prior to 2001 are not held centrally and to gather that data in order to answer this question would incur disproportionate costs.

| *Title and purpose of the project* | *Cost (£)* | *Date to tender* | *Date of award* | *Date carried out* | *Date completed/findings put to Department* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Student Funding* | | | | | |
| Strategic qualitative research, as part of a review of student funding in England, to understand fully how the current system is perceived and to pre test a number of alternative approaches | 41,300.00 | Direct Selection (option available for Framework Agreements) | September 2001 | October-November 2001 | November 2001 |
| *HE Positioning Research* | | | | | |
| Research as part of the review of student fees and loans to assess attitudes to the current arrangements and how best to communicate with key stakeholders | 102,050.00 | Direct Selection because it was a continuation of work they had completed in this area | August 2002 | September to October 2002 | October 2002 |
| *Secondary School Positioning WI* | | | | | |
| Consultation to establish how key audiences perceive future changes to secondary education | 53,800.00 | December 2002 Mini tendered to three organisations on the framework | December 2002 | January to February 2003 | February 2003 |
| *Supermarket research* | | | | | |
| Consultation exercise to test parents reactions to the concept and to some communications ideas | 19,960.00 | December 2003 Mini tendered to three organisations on the framework | December 2003 | January 2004 | February 2004 |
| *Supermarket research follow up* | | | | | |
| Research to assess the success of the pilot of the Parent Know How stand in 15 ASDA stores around London | 59,950.00 | July 2004 Mini tendered to three organisations on the framework | August 2004 | September 2004 | November 2004 |
| *Supermarket pilot pre-test* | | | | | |
| Creative development research to pre-test the look and feel of two design routes being used for a pilot for distributing information about education and related issues to parents via supermarkets | 10,750.00 | Direct select linked to previous project work | July 2004 | July 2004 | July 2004 |
| *Supermarket pilot research pre-test* | | | | | |
| Exit interviews on parent information booklet stands in supermarkets | 18,500.00 | Direct select—Continuation of Pilot evaluation from last year | July 2005 | August 2005 | September 2005 |
| *Supermarket research* | | | | | |
| Pilot campaign evaluation for the Parent Know How stand in 40 ASDA stores | 113,900.00 | Not tendered—Second part of ongoing research | August 2005 | September-October 2005 | November 2005 |

| Title and purpose of the project | Cost (£) | Date to tender | Date of award | Date carried out | Date completed/findings put to Department |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Supermarkets qualitative Booklets Research* | | | | | |
| Qualitative research to understand the overall appeal of the full range Parent Know How leaflets in terms of look, layout and content | 17,040.00 | Not tendered— Part of the Supermarket Research run by OLR | October 2005 | September -October 2005 | October 2005 |
| *London Challenge* | | | | | |
| Qualitative research to explore parents views of London schools and to generate and explore initial ideas for a communications campaign on behalf of London schools | 12,000.00 | Direct select OLR already working on a linked project | October 2005 | October 2005 | October 2005 |
| *Supermarkets Follow up phase 2* | | | | | |
| Consultation to assess the success of the pilot of the Parent Know How stand in 40 ASDA stores throughout the country | 14,500.00 | Direct selection Continuation of an ongoing project | March 2006 | March 2006 | March 2006 |
| *Every Child Matters* | | | | | |
| Creative Development research to test messaging alternatives relating to its Every Child Matters campaign | 48,372.50 | Direct selection | March 2006 | April to May 2006 | May 2006 |
| *Skills Challenge Public Debate* | | | | | |
| Deliberative event to start a process of engagement leading to the Governments response to the Leitch Review later in the year | 130,625.00 | January 2007 Mini tendered to three organisations on the framework | February 2007 | February 2007 | February 2007 |
| *Parental engagement with local authorities* | | | | | |
| Research to explore good practice in parental engagement, both for the specific local authorities who are taking part in the research and to disseminate to local authorities in general | 89,933.00 | June 2007 Mini tendered to three organisations on the framework | June 2007 | July 2007 | August 2007 |
| *Children's Plan deliberative consultation* | | | | | |
| Deliberative events across England and wider community consultation, to inform the development of the Children's Plan | 318,401.00 | August 2007 Mini tendered to three organisations on the framework | September 2007 | October to November 2007 | November 2007 |

## Postal Services

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many items of post sent by his Department and its predecessor were reported missing by the intended recipient in each year since 1997. [171295]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department for Children, Schools and Families (and its predecessor), does not maintain historical records of items of post reported missing by the intended recipient. Any such mail reported missing to the Department's mail rooms are dealt with on a case by case basis until an outcome can be determined and a resolution reached.

## Primary Education

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the levels of numeracy and literacy were among primary school leavers in each London borough on the latest date for which figures are available. [169230]

**Jim Knight:** Levels of literacy and numeracy in primary school leavers are most commonly measured by the proportions of children gaining National Curriculum level 4 and above in English and mathematics, since these represent the expected national standard. The information in the table gives the percentages of 11-year-olds achieving these levels in 2007 based on provisional data. The figures for 1998

and the national averages are also shown for comparison. Inner and Outer London boroughs are listed separately.

*Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in the Key Stage 2 tests by local authority (LA), in the London Government office region (GOR)*

| | 1998 | | 2007 (Provisional) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | English | Mathematics | English | Mathematics |
| London GOR | 64 | 56 | 79 | 76 |
| City of London | 89 | 85 | 96 | 96 |
| Inner London boroughs | 57 | 50 | 77 | 73 |
| Camden | 62 | 58 | 78 | 76 |
| Hackney | 52 | 47 | 73 | 66 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 61 | 54 | 81 | 77 |
| Haringey | 56 | 49 | 75 | 72 |
| Islington | 58 | 51 | 76 | 74 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 69 | 58 | 86 | 82 |
| Lambeth | 56 | 48 | 77 | 71 |
| Lewisham | 59 | 52 | 76 | 73 |
| Newham | 51 | 45 | 74 | 72 |
| Southwark | 54 | 46 | 76 | 71 |
| Tower Hamlets | 51 | 45 | 79 | 77 |
| Wandsworth | 64 | 56 | 79 | 77 |
| Westminster | 69 | 62 | 81 | 76 |
| Outer London boroughs | 67 | 60 | 80 | 77 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 60 | 54 | 77 | 76 |
| Barnet | 73 | 66 | 84 | 81 |
| Bexley | 68 | 59 | 84 | 78 |
| Brent | 64 | 60 | 78 | 74 |
| Bromley | 73 | 66 | 84 | 78 |
| Croydon | 66 | 57 | 80 | 74 |
| Ealing | 66 | 57 | 78 | 76 |
| Enfield | 66 | 56 | 77 | 74 |
| Greenwich | 52 | 48 | 72 | 71 |
| Harrow | 74 | 65 | 80 | 77 |
| Havering | 71 | 65 | 84 | 81 |
| Hillingdon | 68 | 64 | 81 | 77 |
| Hounslow | 63 | 57 | 78 | 76 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 73 | 67 | 83 | 81 |
| Merton | 66 | 53 | 79 | 77 |
| Redbridge | 70 | 61 | 83 | 80 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 79 | 74 | 88 | 84 |
| Sutton | 68 | 61 | 84 | 82 |
| Waltham Forest | 60 | 51 | 75 | 74 |
| England (maintained schools) | 64 | 58 | 80 | 77 |

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the implementation of the Rose Review recommendations in primary schools. [169933]

**Jim Knight:** We have accepted all of the Rose Review's recommendations and have paid particular attention to the recommendation that phonics should be taught as the prime approach to learning to read. We have renewed the primary framework for teaching literacy to reflect this. To further support teachers and practitioners in implementing this key change, and in line with the Review's recommendations, we have worked with Jim Rose to produce a high quality phonics teaching programme, Letters and Sounds. As an alternative for schools that instead wish to use a commercial phonics programme, we have published guidance on a set of criteria which define the key features of an effective phonics teaching programme and which build directly on the Review's recommendations.

We have taken steps to ensure that local authorities have the capacity and expertise to support schools in developing effective phonics teaching. The Communication, Language and Literacy Development (CLLD) programme, specifically developed to implement the Review's recommendations, builds greater quality and capacity in the teaching of early literacy through developing work on speaking and listening; strengthening leadership and management of early literacy; and supporting all schools with phonics and early reading. The CLLD programme has provided training in early reading for every local authority and has funded additional consultants to lead this work in 50 targeted authorities.

We are also working with local authorities and the Training and Development Agency to ensure that newly qualified practitioners are equipped with the necessary skills to implement the Rose Review recommendations.

### Primary Education: Teachers

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to increase the number of people training to be primary school teachers; and if he will make a statement. [169802]

**Jim Knight:** We will be increasing significantly the number of places available for initial teacher training in the primary phase from 2008/09 onwards. This is in response to population census information showing that the number of primary age children will rise in the next few years. Details of the number of places will be available shortly.

### Pupils: Assessments

**Mr. Gibb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which month secondary schools receive key stage 2 test results data for pupils entering the school in year 7. [165765]

**Jim Knight:** The results of National Curriculum Key Stage 2 tests are included in the head teacher's annual report which forms part of the common transfer file of information which must be transferred between schools when pupils change schools. The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 require that when a pupil changes schools, this file is sent to the receiving school no later than 15 school days after the day on which the pupil ceases to be registered at the old school. For most pupils entering secondary school, this will mean that the results will be transferred in September.

## Pupils: Per Capita Costs

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average Government spending was per child in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency, *(b)* each London borough and *(c)* England in (i) primary schools and (ii) secondary schools in each year since 1997. [169682]

**Jim Knight:** The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Uxbridge constituency is not available. The figures for Hillingdon local authority are included in the breakdown by London boroughs.

The revenue funding figures per pupil for primary schools (pupils aged three to 10), secondary schools (pupils aged 11 to 15) and all pupils (aged three to 19) for England and for each local authority in Greater London for years 1997-98 to 2005-06 are as follows:

*Primary (pupils aged three to 10)*

| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 2,560 | 2,660 | 2,830 | 3,070 | 3,260 | 3,340 | 3,550 | 3,660 | 3,870 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 2,690 | 2,940 | 3,100 | 3,320 | 3,520 | 3,700 | 4,030 | 4,170 | 4,350 |
| Barnet | 2,770 | 2,850 | 3,020 | 3,190 | 3,460 | 3,540 | 3,840 | 3,970 | 4,260 |
| Bexley | 2,610 | 2,720 | 2,840 | 3,010 | 3,180 | 3,280 | 3,510 | 3,610 | 3,770 |
| Brent | 3,170 | 3,280 | 3,490 | 3,680 | 3,940 | 4,130 | 4,400 | 4,570 | 4,860 |
| Bromley | 2,630 | 2,750 | 2,910 | 3,110 | 3,280 | 3,340 | 3,480 | 3,600 | 3,790 |
| Camden | 3,820 | 3,780 | 4,080 | 4,410 | 4,720 | 4,890 | 5,300 | 5,540 | 5,750 |
| Croydon | 2,890 | 2,930 | 3,120 | 3,310 | 3,510 | 3,620 | 3,770 | 3,920 | 4,100 |
| Ealing | 2,840 | 3,040 | 3,250 | 3,500 | 3,750 | 3,860 | 4,220 | 4,390 | 4,700 |
| Enfield | 2,860 | 2,970 | 3,190 | 3,390 | 3,610 | 3,780 | 3,990 | 4,140 | 4,310 |
| Greenwich | 3,360 | 3,440 | 3,730 | 4,080 | 4,310 | 4,460 | 4,760 | 4,920 | 5,240 |
| Hackney | 3,970 | 3,990 | 4,340 | 4,650 | 4,890 | 5,110 | 5,450 | 5,610 | 5,980 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3,730 | 3,750 | 4,020 | 4,370 | 4,650 | 4,930 | 5,190 | 5,390 | 5,570 |
| Haringey | 3,290 | 3,390 | 3,670 | 3,960 | 4,260 | 4,410 | 4,620 | 4,820 | 4,980 |
| Harrow | 2,750 | 2,820 | 2,990 | 3,220 | 3,400 | 3,490 | 3,830 | 3,990 | 4,250 |
| Havering | 2,600 | 2,710 | 2,830 | 3,020 | 3,220 | 3,290 | 3,460 | 3,560 | 3,750 |
| Hillingdon | 2,770 | 2,860 | 3,040 | 3,230 | 3,350 | 3,430 | 3,740 | 3,890 | 4,140 |
| Hounslow | 2,850 | 2,960 | 3,180 | 3,410 | 3,610 | 3,800 | 4,160 | 4,290 | 4,570 |
| Islington | 3,620 | 3,760 | 4,040 | 4,460 | 4,780 | 4,940 | 5,240 | 5,440 | 5,760 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 3,640 | 3,710 | 4,110 | 4,490 | 4,860 | 5,190 | 5,400 | 5,600 | 5,750 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 2,560 | 2,650 | 2,820 | 3,060 | 3,290 | 3,330 | 3,510 | 3,630 | 3,890 |
| Lambeth | 3,990 | 4,020 | 4,300 | 4,610 | 4,820 | 5,040 | 5,310 | 5,520 | 5,760 |
| Lewisham | 3,650 | 3,710 | 3,950 | 4,220 | 4,480 | 4,670 | 4,940 | 5,050 | 5,380 |
| Merton | 2,780 | 2,820 | 3,010 | 3,270 | 3,530 | 3,520 | 3,830 | 3,980 | 4,240 |
| Newham | 3,380 | 3,490 | 3,670 | 3,890 | 4,170 | 4,330 | 4,600 | 4,760 | 5,010 |
| Redbridge | 2,860 | 2,910 | 3,060 | 3,220 | 3,390 | 3,460 | 3,700 | 3,840 | 4,050 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 2,710 | 2,690 | 2,840 | 3,070 | 3,260 | 3,300 | 3,470 | 3,610 | 3,830 |
| Southwark | 3,680 | 3,770 | 4,050 | 4,340 | 4,600 | 4,780 | 5,000 | 5,130 | 5,530 |
| Sutton | 2,800 | 2,820 | 2,970 | 3,160 | 3,340 | 3,400 | 3,570 | 3,700 | 3,860 |
| Tower Hamlets | 3,800 | 3,960 | 4,370 | 4,650 | 4,970 | 5,190 | 5,620 | 5,780 | 6,190 |
| Waltham Forest | 3,180 | 3,230 | 3,420 | 3,660 | 3,920 | 4,070 | 4,230 | 4,410 | 4,570 |
| Wandsworth | 3,380 | 3,430 | 3,670 | 3,940 | 4,180 | 4,260 | 4,640 | 4,750 | 5,080 |
| Westminster | 3,650 | 3,640 | 3,980 | 4,260 | 4,530 | 4,760 | 5,120 | 5,260 | 5,490 |

*Secondary (aged 11 to 15)*

| | *1997-98* | *1998-99* | *1999-2000* | *2000-01* | *2001-02* | *2002-03* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 3,490 | 3,580 | 3,710 | 4,020 | 4,230 | 4,330 | 4,410 | 4,600 | 4,770 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 4,070 | 4,180 | 4,290 | 4,690 | 5,030 | 5,100 | 5,070 | 5,270 | 5,370 |
| Barnet | 3,720 | 3,790 | 3,930 | 4,140 | 4,490 | 4,640 | 4,700 | 4,930 | 5,230 |
| Bexley | 3,610 | 3,700 | 3,780 | 4,010 | 4,250 | 4,360 | 4,380 | 4,570 | 4,710 |
| Brent | 4,480 | 4,520 | 4,700 | 5,000 | 5,420 | 5,550 | 5,670 | 5,940 | 6,170 |
| Bromley | 3,540 | 3,610 | 3,720 | 3,950 | 4,200 | 4,310 | 4,440 | 4,670 | 4,820 |
| Camden | 4,710 | 4,850 | 5,200 | 5,700 | 6,040 | 6,190 | 6,550 | 6,850 | 6,920 |
| Croydon | 3,910 | 4,020 | 4,180 | 4,430 | 4,730 | 4,880 | 4,950 | 5,150 | 5,320 |

*Secondary (aged 11 to 15)*

| | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ealing | 4,180 | 4,280 | 4,420 | 4,800 | 5,210 | 5,230 | 5,370 | 5,670 | 5,950 |
| Enfield | 3,930 | 3,980 | 4,090 | 4,330 | 4,740 | 4,880 | 4,940 | 5,150 | 5,280 |
| Greenwich | 4,620 | 4,730 | 5,030 | 5,600 | 5,900 | 5,990 | 6,110 | 6,300 | 6,610 |
| Hackney | 5,440 | 5,590 | 5,970 | 6,440 | 6,800 | 6,980 | 7,370 | 7,720 | 7,980 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4,800 | 4,990 | 5,280 | 5,730 | 6,070 | 6,360 | 6,590 | 6,890 | 6,970 |
| Haringey | 4,680 | 4,730 | 5,020 | 5,410 | 5,800 | 5,890 | 6,220 | 6,490 | 6,530 |
| Harrow | 3,750 | 3,840 | 3,960 | 4,180 | 4,510 | 4,690 | 4,840 | 5,050 | 5,210 |
| Havering | 3,570 | 3,660 | 3,740 | 3,970 | 4,240 | 4,350 | 4,410 | 4,620 | 4,780 |
| Hillingdon | 3,710 | 3,790 | 3,950 | 4,190 | 4,440 | 4,580 | 4,630 | 4,880 | 5,150 |
| Hounslow | 3,960 | 4,050 | 4,190 | 4,450 | 4,820 | 4,960 | 5,120 | 5,330 | 5,560 |
| Islington | 5,050 | 5,170 | 5,500 | 6,090 | 6,580 | 6,760 | 6,860 | 7,110 | 7,420 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 4,570 | 4,820 | 5,170 | 5,640 | 6,010 | 6,450 | 7,000 | 7,280 | 7,310 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 3,530 | 3,610 | 3,720 | 3,950 | 4,240 | 4,380 | 4,450 | 4,650 | 4,890 |
| Lambeth | 5,520 | 5,720 | 6,120 | 6,660 | 6,970 | 7,170 | 7,120 | 7,560 | 7,760 |
| Lewisham | 4,870 | 4,990 | 5,270 | 5,710 | 6,080 | 6,290 | 6,540 | 6,780 | 7,120 |
| Merton | 3,800 | 3,890 | 4,020 | 4,270 | 4,640 | 4,710 | 4,840 | 5,080 | 5,350 |
| Newham | 4,550 | 4,690 | 4,880 | 5,300 | 5,680 | 5,760 | 5,700 | 5,910 | 6,100 |
| Redbridge | 3,820 | 3,900 | 3,990 | 4,260 | 4,560 | 4,670 | 4,530 | 4,730 | 4,890 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 3,420 | 3,510 | 3,620 | 3,870 | 4,140 | 4,290 | 4,460 | 4,690 | 4,870 |
| Southwark | 5,060 | 5,140 | 5,440 | 5,920 | 6,280 | 6,470 | 6,670 | 7,270 | 7,470 |
| Sutton | 3,580 | 3,650 | 3,740 | 3,940 | 4,190 | 4,300 | 4,440 | 4,650 | 4,770 |
| Tower Hamlets | 5,350 | 5,420 | 5,850 | 6,360 | 6,770 | 6,920 | 6,970 | 7,250 | 7,520 |
| Waltham Forest | 4,260 | 4,310 | 4,540 | 4,900 | 5,290 | 5,410 | 5,500 | 5,690 | 5,790 |
| Wandsworth | 4,610 | 4,650 | 4,950 | 5,370 | 5,670 | 5,710 | 6,110 | 6,320 | 6,520 |
| Westminster | 4,490 | 4,590 | 4,930 | 5,370 | 5,650 | 5,880 | 6,340 | 6,520 | 6,620 |

*Total (pupils aged three to 19)*

| | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 3,120 | 3,180 | 3,320 | 3,580 | 3,760 | 3,870 | 4,000 | 4,150 | 4,350 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 3,410 | 3,570 | 3,690 | 3,960 | 4,190 | 4,360 | 4,530 | 4,720 | 4,880 |
| Barnet | 3,410 | 3,450 | 3,580 | 3,760 | 4,040 | 4,190 | 4,360 | 4,510 | 4,800 |
| Bexley | 3,190 | 3,260 | 3,350 | 3,540 | 3,730 | 3,860 | 3,990 | 4,120 | 4,310 |
| Brent | 3,950 | 4,000 | 4,160 | 4,360 | 4,640 | 4,840 | 5,050 | 5,240 | 5,500 |
| Bromley | 3,210 | 3,270 | 3,390 | 3,590 | 3,780 | 3,900 | 4,030 | 4,200 | 4,380 |
| Camden | 4,660 | 4,640 | 4,890 | 5,260 | 5,510 | 5,720 | 5,920 | 6,180 | 6,340 |
| Croydon | 3,460 | 3,510 | 3,660 | 3,870 | 4,080 | 4,210 | 4,290 | 4,480 | 4,660 |
| Ealing | 3,580 | 3,710 | 3,860 | 4,150 | 4,420 | 4,530 | 4,770 | 4,980 | 5,270 |
| Enfield | 3,520 | 3,570 | 3,720 | 3,930 | 4,190 | 4,380 | 4,490 | 4,670 | 4,830 |
| Greenwich | 4,120 | 4,170 | 4,430 | 4,850 | 5,080 | 5,300 | 5,440 | 5,610 | 5,920 |
| Hackney | 4,820 | 4,830 | 5,140 | 5,500 | 5,720 | 5,930 | 6,180 | 6,390 | 6,730 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 4,580 | 4,620 | 4,840 | 5,210 | 5,450 | 5,760 | 5,880 | 6,120 | 6,260 |
| Haringey | 4,060 | 4,100 | 4,350 | 4,660 | 4,950 | 5,080 | 5,280 | 5,510 | 5,640 |
| Harrow | 3,330 | 3,380 | 3,510 | 3,740 | 3,950 | 4,070 | 4,280 | 4,470 | 4,690 |
| Havering | 3,170 | 3,240 | 3,330 | 3,530 | 3,740 | 3,840 | 3,950 | 4,100 | 4,280 |
| Hillingdon | 3,370 | 3,420 | 3,560 | 3,770 | 3,900 | 4,040 | 4,220 | 4,430 | 4,690 |
| Hounslow | 3,560 | 3,630 | 3,790 | 4,030 | 4,260 | 4,470 | 4,700 | 4,860 | 5,120 |
| Islington | 4,460 | 4,550 | 4,790 | 5,280 | 5,610 | 5,760 | 5,920 | 6,180 | 6,490 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 4,550 | 4,620 | 4,940 | 5,320 | 5,590 | 5,940 | 6,070 | 6,320 | 6,450 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 3,180 | 3,230 | 3,360 | 3,580 | 3,810 | 3,930 | 4,070 | 4,260 | 4,500 |
| Lambeth | 4,890 | 4,930 | 5,160 | 5,510 | 5,710 | 5,920 | 5,980 | 6,230 | 6,490 |
| Lewisham | 4,400 | 4,440 | 4,640 | 4,960 | 5,220 | 5,410 | 5,610 | 5,780 | 6,090 |
| Merton | 3,380 | 3,420 | 3,570 | 3,820 | 4,100 | 4,120 | 4,320 | 4,500 | 4,770 |
| Newham | 4,050 | 4,150 | 4,310 | 4,580 | 4,880 | 5,010 | 5,120 | 5,300 | 5,530 |
| Redbridge | 3,500 | 3,520 | 3,610 | 3,800 | 3,990 | 4,130 | 4,180 | 4,360 | 4,540 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 3,190 | 3,190 | 3,310 | 3,540 | 3,730 | 3,790 | 3,890 | 4,060 | 4,260 |
| Southwark | 4,440 | 4,490 | 4,730 | 5,060 | 5,320 | 5,500 | 5,650 | 5,900 | 6,260 |

*Total (pupils aged three to 19)*

| | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sutton | 3,360 | 3,360 | 3,470 | 3,650 | 3,840 | 3,990 | 4,120 | 4,300 | 4,460 |
| Tower Hamlets | 4,670 | 4,780 | 5,180 | 5,550 | 5,870 | 6,070 | 6,280 | 6,470 | 6,820 |
| Waltham Forest | 3,830 | 3,850 | 4,020 | 4,290 | 4,570 | 4,720 | 4,820 | 5,030 | 5,180 |
| Wandsworth | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,390 | 4,690 | 4,900 | 4,980 | 5,300 | 5,470 | 5,780 |
| Westminster | 4,500 | 4,490 | 4,770 | 5,100 | 5,290 | 5,520 | 5,770 | 5,950 | 6,100 |

*Notes*:
1. Price Base: Real terms at 2006-07 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 26.09.07.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of standard spending assessment/education formula spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged three to 19 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those authorities in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004-05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004-05). There will be a consequential reduction in DfES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006-07 and 2007-08 or 2006-7 to 2008-9, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA). The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
6. 1997-98 figures for authorities subject to local government reorganisation in that year have been estimated, pro-rata to their post LGR figures.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the dedicated schools grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. The DSG is based on planned spend. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS, which comprises a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the schools block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2006-07 to 2007-08 for England and for each local authority in Greater London are provided in the following table. The DSG is distributed through a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil so a split between primary and secondary funding is not available.

| | *DSG plus grants 2006-07* | *DSG plus grants 2007-08* |
|---|---|---|
| England | 4,240 | 4,410 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 4,700 | 4,980 |
| Barnet | 4,730 | 4,880 |
| Bexley | 4,280 | 4,430 |
| Brent | 5,070 | 5,320 |
| Bromley | 4,130 | 4,290 |
| Camden | 6,350 | 6,560 |
| Croydon | 4,410 | 4,610 |
| Ealing | 5,070 | 5,260 |
| Enfield | 4,660 | 4,820 |
| Greenwich | 5,620 | 5,830 |
| Hackney | 6,560 | 6,720 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 6,010 | 6,220 |
| Haringey | 5,350 | 5,560 |
| Harrow | 4,550 | 4,720 |
| Havering | 4,220 | 4,370 |
| Hillingdon | 4,550 | 4,690 |
| Hounslow | 4,920 | 5,080 |
| Islington | 6,100 | 6,370 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 6,150 | 6,280 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 4,430 | 4,550 |
| Lambeth | 6,070 | 6,290 |
| Lewisham | 5,820 | 5,990 |
| Merton | 4,570 | 4,720 |
| Newham | 5,350 | 5,580 |
| Redbridge | 4,340 | 4,530 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 4,320 | 4,450 |
| Southwark | 6,110 | 6,310 |
| Sutton | 4,350 | 4,510 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6,650 | 6,920 |
| Waltham Forest | 4,910 | 5,070 |
| Wandsworth | 5,360 | 5,590 |
| Westminster | 5,730 | 6,000 |

*Notes*:
1. The revenue funding per pupil figures only run to 2005-06 because we cannot provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 1998-99 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS: EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.
3. Price Base: Real terms at 2006-07 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 26 September 2007.
4. This covers funding through the dedicated schools grant, school standards grant, school standards grant (personalisation) and standards fund; it excludes grants not allocated at LEA level.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
6. Figures are in real terms.

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average Government spending per child in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in West Chelmsford Parliamentary constituency was in (i) the latest year for which figures are available and (ii) 2001. [169765]

**Jim Knight:** The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for West Chelmsford constituency is not available. The revenue funding figures per pupil for 2001-02 and 2005-06 for Essex local authority are shown in the following table.

| | *2001-02 (£)* | *2005-06 (£)* |
|---|---|---|
| Primary (pupils aged 3-10) | 3,210 | 3,720 |
| Secondary (pupils aged 11-15) | 4,130 | 4,610 |
| Total (pupils aged 3-19) | 3,690 | 4,190 |

*Notes:*
1. Price Base: Real terms at 2006-07 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 26 September 2007.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending (EPS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3-19 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those authorities in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004-05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004-05). There will be a consequential reduction in DfES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006-07 and 2007-08 or 2006-07 to 2008-09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC 3-year-old maintained pupils and estimated 3 to 4-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
4. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
6. The figures are in real terms

The latest year for which comparable figures are available is 2005-06 and these have been given in the table. The latest revenue per pupil figures available are for 2007-08 and are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for 2001-02 and 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2001-02 and 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. The DSG is based on planned spend. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS, which comprises a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the schools block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

The per pupil revenue funding figure based on DSG plus grants for 2007-08 for Essex was £4,180.

The DSG is distributed through a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil so a split between primary and secondary funding is not available. This figure is for all funded pupils aged 3-15 and is in real terms.

*Notes:*
1. The revenue funding per pupil figures only run to 2005-06 because we cannot provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 1998-99 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07, funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EPS: EPS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.
3. Price Base: Real terms at 2006-07 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 26 September 2007.
4. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund; it excludes grants not allocated at LEA level.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

### School Leaving

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how his Department plans to assess the four building blocks he has set out for raising the participation age. [169158]

**Jim Knight:** In his speech to the Fabian Society on 5 November, my right hon. Friend described four building blocks that must be in place before we can successfully raise the participation age. These are: curriculum and qualifications reform; advice and guidance to help all young people make the right choices; financial support; and employer engagement to provide the right training and apprenticeships. We have set out our plans to implement these reforms and will keep them under review in the run up to the increase in the participation age in 2013.

### Schools: Catering

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* schools and *(b)* sixth form colleges have been supplied meat by McLaren Foods in the last 12 months. [170443]

**Jim Knight:** The information requested is not collected by this Department. Local authorities and schools must put in place their own arrangements for procuring ingredients for school food.

### Science: Teaching Methods

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to support Wizz Bang multi-media science and technology presentations to encourage the take up of science and related subjects in schools. [169773]

**Jim Knight:** The Government are already doing much to encourage young people to take up science and related subjects in schools. This includes the

Science and Engineering Ambassadors scheme whereby practising scientists and engineers go into schools to support teachers and engage and enthuse pupils to continue studying science. We are also in the process of commissioning a programme of careers support and guidance, and a communications campaign both with the aim informing young people more about the varied and exciting opportunities that exist in science in pre and post-16 education and beyond.

The Government have no plans to support Wizz Bang multi-media science and technology presentations. It is for schools to decide whether they engage with this type of initiative as they are best placed to know the specific needs of their pupils.

## Secondary Education

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average Government spending was in the latest period for which figures are available per child in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each London borough. [169237]

**Jim Knight:** The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. The DSG is distributed through a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil so a split between primary and secondary funding is not available. The figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-15.

| | *DSG plus grants 2007-08 (£)* |
|---|---|
| Barking and Dagenham | 5,119 |
| Barnet | 5,009 |
| Bexley | 4,551 |
| Brent | 5,463 |
| Bromley | 4,403 |
| Camden | 6,733 |
| Croydon | 4,738 |
| Ealing | 5,403 |
| Enfield | 4,951 |
| Greenwich | 5,987 |
| Hackney | 6,902 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 6,388 |
| Haringey | 5,710 |
| Harrow | 4,847 |
| Havering | 4,492 |
| Hillingdon | 4,815 |
| Hounslow | 5,212 |
| Islington | 6,547 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 6,452 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 4,676 |
| Lambeth | 6,462 |
| Lewisham | 6,152 |
| Merton | 4,849 |
| Newham | 5,726 |
| Redbridge | 4,653 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 4,574 |
| Southwark | 6,484 |
| Sutton | 4,629 |
| Tower Hamlets | 7,107 |
| Waltham Forest | 5,206 |
| Wandsworth | 5,736 |
| Westminster | 6,164 |

*Notes:*
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund; it excludes grants not allocated at LEA level.
2. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
3. The figures are in cash terms.

## Secondary Education: School Meals

**Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what means he expects secondary schools to conduct school nutrient analysis. [170031]

**Kevin Brennan:** The School Food Trust (SFT) will shortly publish 'A guide to introducing the Government's food-based and nutrient-based standards for school lunches'. It will be on the SFT website in early December, and hard copies will be distributed to stakeholders including schools, local authorities and catering providers. The guide will explain the standards, give advice on implementing and monitoring them, and explain how to carry out nutrient analysis of school lunch provision.

The SFT has also published independent reviews of menu planning and nutrient analysis software, giving information on the types of packages available and their costs. The reviews are available on their website at: http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/content.asp?Contentid=487

The School Lunch Grant, paid to local authorities from 2008/09 to 2010/11, can be used to meet the costs of the nutrient and menu checking software needed to ensure that school lunches are meeting the nutrient-based standards, and the expertise to use it.

The SFT is currently running pilots in 12 secondary schools to provide tested examples of nutrient standard compliant school lunch provision acceptable to secondary school pupils. The results of these pilots will be published next year.

## Special Educational Needs

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to introduce a fast-track statementing process for children with very high needs. [169840]

**Jim Knight:** There are no plans to specify different timescales for the statementing of children with different levels or types of special educational needs (SEN). A significant part of the statementing process is a thorough assessment of the child's needs, in order to determine the appropriate provision to meet those needs. The Government's response to the July 2006 Education and Skills Select Committee report on SEN announced that Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools will review progress in the current system in 2009-10. We will then consider, in the light of HMCI's advice, whether changes are needed to the current framework.

## Specialist Schools Status

**Mr. Laws:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his estimate is of the

annual cost of increasing the funding of all maintained secondary schools to at least the level obtained by those schools granted specialist status; and if he will make a statement; [169798]

(2) how many maintained secondary schools have not yet attained specialist status; how many of these have failed to meet the required minimum standards for specialist school application; and if he will make a statement. [169799]

**Jim Knight:** The estimate of the annual cost of increasing the funding of all maintained secondary schools to at least the level obtained by those schools granted specialist status is around £39 million.

There are 408 maintained secondary schools outside the programme. Since 2003, of those schools, 153 have applied but not met the standard for specialist school status.

### Supply Teachers: Yorkshire and the Humber

**Mr. Graham Stuart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of secondary school lessons in Yorkshire and the Humber were taught by a supply teacher in each of the last five years, broken down by local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [169737]

**Jim Knight:** The information is not collected centrally.

### Teachers: Training

**Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* science, *(c)* history and *(d)* English graduates entered teacher training to qualify as secondary school teachers in each year since 2001-02. [169135]

**Jim Knight:** The following table shows the number of graduate trainees entering postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) courses to qualify as a secondary school teacher in the subject for which they hold a first degree, through mainstream ITT and employment-based routes (EBR), between 2002/03 and 2005/06 for:

*(a)* Mathematics;
*(b)* Science;
*(c)* History and
*(d)* English.

*Number of graduates entering postgraduate initial teacher training to qualify as secondary school teachers in the subject for which they hold a first degree*

| | *Number of graduates entering initial teacher training courses* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2002/03* | | *2003/04* | | *2004/05* | | *2005/06* | |
| *Subject of secondary ITT* | *Mainstream* | *EBR* | *Mainstream* | *EBR* | *Mainstream* | *EBR* | *Mainstream* | *EBR* |
| Mathematics | 620 | 100 | 790 | 190 | 810 | 230 | 800 | 250 |
| Science | 710 | 170 | 780 | 200 | 740 | 40 | 730 | 140 |
| History | 650 | 40 | 530 | 70 | 510 | 100 | 510 | 90 |
| English | 1,230 | 260 | 1,190 | 310 | 1,060 | 480 | 990 | 580 |

*Notes:*
1. Mainstream includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment-based routes.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. The method of classifying degree subjects changed as a result of the introduction of the JACS coding structure in 2002/03. Data collected prior to this date under the HESA coding system cannot be directly compared using the direct match alone.
4. Performance profiles data is collected at the end of a trainees first year, therefore 2006/07 data is collected in autumn 2007 and will be published in July 2008.
5. The table only covers those who hold a first degree in the subject of their ITT training course, it does not cover those who have a first degree (in Mathematics, Science, History or English) but are entering an ITT course which is in a different subject to their first degree.

*Source:*
TDA's Performance Profiles.

### Truancy

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the truancy rate was in *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools in (i) Uxbridge constituency, (ii) each London borough and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [169580]

**Kevin Brennan:** The Department collects data on unauthorised absences from schools, only some of which are truancy.

The two tables containing the figures for the proportion of half days missed due to unauthorised absence (of which truancy forms a part) have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established, other absence not authorised by the school and truancy.

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Home Information Packs

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* domestic energy assessors and *(b)* home inspectors she estimates will be required for full implementation of the home information pack (HIP) policy; how this estimate was calculated; and what (i) evidence and (ii) criteria are being used to determine the market impact of HIPs. [166956]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement 'Home Information Packs' made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of home information pack searches have been undertaken via local authorities. [168929]

**Yvette Cooper:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether information on radon risks *(a)* can and *(b)* must form part of home information packs. [171516]

**Yvette Cooper:** Information on radon risk is required in the Home Information Pack as part of the local inquiries.

### Home Information Packs: Peterborough

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of the introduction of home information packs on the residential housing market in the Peterborough City Council area; and if she will make a statement. [163179]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement 'Home Information Packs' made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

### Housing: Carbon Emissions

**Mr. Meacher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition she uses of eco-home. [164666]

**Yvette Cooper:** The Government do not define or set criteria for an 'eco-home' as such. The Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) sets standards for housing.

The Code is a set of sustainable design principles covering performance of new homes in nine key areas, including energy and $CO_2$ emissions, water, materials, surface water run-off, waste, pollution, health and well-being, management and ecology.

New homes that are assessed against the Code receive a 1-6 star rating. A 1 star home is built to higher sustainability standards that those set out in building regulations while a 6 star home is a truly sustainable—zero carbon—home. The criteria on how to achieve each star rating is set out in detail in "Code for Sustainable Homes: Technical guide", available on the Communities and Local Government's website:

www.communities.gov.uk/thecode

The Code is based on the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) for homes 'EcoHomes', which it replaced for new homes in England from April 2007. The Code is more robust than 'EcoHomes' as it sets minimum standards for Energy/$CO_2$, water, materials, surface water run-off and waste.

### Housing: Inspections

**Ian Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many qualified domestic energy assessors and home inspectors there are in *(a)* Eccles constituency, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* the North West. [162708]

**Yvette Cooper:** The most recent data as at 5 November provide the following information on the number of accredited home inspectors and domestic energy assessors in Eccles constituency, Greater Manchester and the North West.

| | *Home inspectors* | *Domestic energy assessors* |
|---|---|---|
| Eccles | — | 15 |
| Greater Manchester | 37 | 218 |
| North West | 93 | 595 |

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* domestic energy assessors and *(b)* home information pack inspectors have had to retake their exams in the last 12 months. [165776]

**Yvette Cooper:** The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Grant Shapps:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Government plans to extend the home information pack scheme to one and two bedroomed properties; and if she will make a statement. [165780]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement 'Home Information Packs' made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many qualified domestic energy assessors there are in *(a)* North West Leicestershire, *(b)* Leicestershire and *(c)* the East Midlands. [166769]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* The most recent data as of 15 November provide the following information on the number of accredited domestic energy assessors in North West Leicestershire, Leicestershire and the East Midlands.

| | *Domestic energy assessors* |
|---|---|
| North West Leicestershire | 9 |
| Leicestershire | 80 |
| East Midlands | 421 |

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of domestic energy

assessors required to administer the home information pack scheme in *(a)* North West Leicestershire, *(b)* Leicestershire and *(c)* the East Midlands once the scheme is implemented across the housing market; and how that estimate is calculated. [166770]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* We set out the criteria for roll out of home information packs (HIPs) to Parliament on 22 May, explaining that we would extend the requirement for HIPs when sufficient energy inspectors were in place nationally and regionally to meet market demand as well as taking into account lessons learnt from the operation of the scheme.

It was estimated that 303 domestic energy assessors would be required to produce energy performance certificates for the implementation of home information packs for all properties in the East Midlands. This was based on the estimated number of properties marketed for sale in the region and working practices of assessors.

**John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many qualified home inspectors and domestic energy assessors there are in Bassetlaw; and how many houses were sold in Bassetlaw in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167138]

**Yvette Cooper** *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* As of 15 November, in total there were six accredited home inspectors and domestic energy assessors in Bassetlaw.

According to HM Land Registry data there were 2,573 residential property sales in Bassetlaw during 2006.

### Housing: Leeds

**John Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of the introduction of home information packs on the residential housing market in Leeds West constituency; and if she will make a statement. [166276]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer my right hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement 'Home Information Packs' made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 140-42WS.

### Housing: Low Incomes

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect on provision of low-cost residential housing in Peterborough constituency of the introduction of home information packs for one and two-bedroomed homes; and if she will make a statement. [169540]

**Yvette Cooper:** I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement 'Home Information Packs' made on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 140-42WS.

### Land

**Mr. Pickles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been allocated to support community land trusts in 2007-08; and from what budgets such funding will be drawn. [171562]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** The Housing Corporation is working with Salford university to assist with the development of 14 pilot Community Land Trusts, seven in urban areas and seven in rural areas.

Community Land Trusts were invited to bid for Housing Corporation funds through the Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme 2008 to 2011.

### Local Government Finance: Terrorism

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure that the spending of Preventing Violent Extremism programme funding by local authorities is audited. [171943]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The £6 million Preventing Extremism Pathfinder Fund was paid as part of eligible local authorities' Local Area Agreement grants. Eligible expenditure is audited in line with the terms and conditions set in their grant determination for LAA grant. Performance against outcomes is reviewed by the local authority with partners and the Government office on a six monthly basis.

### Planning Permission

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether live/work units are classified as sui generis. [171940]

**Mr. Iain Wright:** Live/work units, if they are such that they provide the opportunity for living and working within a single self-contained unit and neither the residential nor the business use is ancillary to the other, would be classified as a sui generis use in the context of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes Order) 1987, as amended.

Where a single dwelling is used for both living and working, but the primary use remains as a dwelling and the business use is ancillary, this use would fall within the "C3: Dwelling Houses" class of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes Order) 1987, as amended.

It is for local planning authorities to determine, taking into account individual characteristics, as to which class or otherwise a particular premises belongs.

### Terrorism: Finance

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what safeguards she has put in place to ensure that funding provided to organisations by local authorities under the Preventing Violent Extremism programme is used for the purposes for which the programme is intended. [171941]

**Mr. Dhanda:** The £6 million Preventing Extremism Pathfinder Fund was paid as part of eligible local authorities' Local Area Agreement grants.

It is the responsibility of the accountable body of a grant to ensure that expenditure is in line with the terms and conditions of the grant determination.

For the LAA Grant, expenditure must contribute to achieving or exceeding the outcomes, targets, and indicators, of their LAA. Local authorities work closely with a range of partners in developing programmes to prevent violent extremism, including the police.

### Urban Areas: Carbon Emissions

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Government are going to make available to create eco-towns; and how such funding is going to be distributed. [166299]

**Yvette Cooper:** CSR07 allocated £1.7 billion of targeted funding over the CSR07 period for infrastructure in Growth Areas, the Thames Gateway, New Growth Points and eco-towns, including £300 million to continue the Community Infrastructure Fund. Decisions on the split and distribution of growth funding will be announced in due course.

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has given to local authorities on eco-town proposals. [166300]

**Yvette Cooper:** In July we published the Housing Green Paper and as part of this the Eco-towns Prospectus. The Prospectus sets out the vision and outline criteria for eco-towns, and how the Government can support projects. In August my officials also wrote to the chief executives of local authorities in the English regions, to stakeholders and other interested parties setting out how we would invite proposals for additional new growth points and eco-towns.

### Urban Areas: Sustainable Development

**Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms will be put in place to monitor delivery of the exceptional levels of infrastructure and community facility investment announced as part of the eco-towns initiative; and if she will make a statement. [171216]

**Yvette Cooper:** We indicated in the Ecotowns Prospectus, published alongside the Housing Green Paper that we would expect eco-town proposals to include options for a dedicated delivery body which will plan, oversee and develop (with partners) the major infrastructure needed to establish the town, such as a local trust or local authority partnership or in some instances this could be a body such as a new town development corporation. Further advice on community investment and facilities will be included in the Town and Country Planning Association guide to the practical application of the key sustainability and development criteria for eco-towns which is currently being developed.

Selected eco-town proposals, which we expect to announce in February, will be invited to produce a programme of development to setting out the delivery and funding requirements of their proposal, and this will include local infrastructure and community investment.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Departmental Data Protection

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he proposes to review how his Department transports data; and whether his Department uses TNT to transport data. [169213]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Football: Schools

**Helen Southworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools with (i) a boys' football team and (ii) a girls' football team that meets Football Association standards. [170110]

**Mr. Sutcliffe:** The Football Association (FA) advises that there are nearly 5,500 FA charter standard schools. Schools are required to provide football for boys and girls both in the curriculum and out of school hours as part of the qualifying criteria to be an FA charter standard school. Exact numbers of teams in primary and secondary education by gender are not available.

The 2006-07 school sport survey found that 98 per cent. of primary and secondary schools offered football during the last academic year and that 78 per cent. of primary and secondary schools have a link with a local football club.

### Olympic Games 2012

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial information he supplies on a regular basis on the progress of arrangements for hosting the 2012 Olympic games to *(a)* Government departments and *(b)* Cabinet Committee MISC25; and with what frequency in each case. [165181]

**Tessa Jowell** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

*(a)* Financial information about costs, funding and projects is shared with relevant Government departments through the

appropriate mechanisms including the Funders' Group, the Olympic Projects Review Group, and the Olympic Board Steering Group.

*(b)* ED (OPG) is the Cabinet sub committee responsible for issues relating to Economic Development of the London Olympic and Paralympic games. As is the case with information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet and all Cabinet committees, including the number of meetings held and topics discussed, details about ED (OPG) meetings are generally not disclosed.

### Radio: Commercial Broadcasting

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many commercial radio licences were granted by Ofcom in each of the last five years. [171652]

**James Purnell:** The number of commercial radio licences awarded by Ofcom in each of the last five years is set out in the following table:

| | *Licences awarded* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 11 |
| 2004 | 2 |
| 2005 | 16 |
| 2006 | 15 |
| 2007 | [1]12 |

[1] To date

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment his Department has made of the size of the commercial radio sector in the UK. [171653]

**James Purnell:** No such assessment has been made. However, figures published by the independent regulator, Ofcom, show that in 2006, the estimated total of commercial radio revenue was £512 million[1].

[1] *Source:*
The UK Communications Market 2007, Ofcom, August 2007

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many commercial radio licences have been returned to Ofcom in each of the last five years. [171656]

**James Purnell:** The number of commercial radio licences returned to Ofcom in each of the last five years is set out in the following table:

| | *Licences returned* |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 0 |
| 2004 | 0 |
| 2005 | 0 |
| 2006 | 1 |
| 2007 | [1]2 |

[1] To date

### Tourism

**Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate his Department has made of the UK's market share of the international tourism industry in each of the last 10 years. [171676]

**Margaret Hodge** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The most recent available figures for national shares of the world tourism market are for 2006. The UK's percentage markets shares, in terms of both visitor numbers and spending, for the 10 years to 2006 were as follows:

| | *Inbound visitors to UK (million)* | *Percentage of world total* | *Inbound visitor spending in UK (£ million)* | *Percentage of world total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 25.5 | 3.9 | 12.2 | 4.4 |
| 1998 | 25.7 | 3.9 | 12.7 | 4.7 |
| 1999 | 25.3 | 3.7 | 12.5 | 4.4 |
| 2000 | 25.2 | 3.4 | 12.8 | 4.0 |
| 2001 | 22.8 | 3.1 | 11.3 | 3.5 |
| 2002 | 24.2 | 3.2 | 11.7 | 3.7 |
| 2003 | 24.7 | 3.3 | 11.9 | 3.7 |
| 2004 | 25.7 | 3.4 | 13.1 | 3.8 |
| 2005 | 30.0 | 3.5 | 14.2 | 3.8 |
| 2006 | 32.2 | 3.6 | 15.4 | 4.0 |

## DEFENCE

### Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what units form the UK's commitment to the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps. [170827]

**Des Browne:** Only those units which are integral to HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) or under operational command of Commander ARRC on a peace-time basis are actually committed to it. Most UK formations and units on which HQ ARRC might draw for operations are affiliated for training, doctrine development, communication and other purposes, but not permanently assigned to, or commanded by, HQ ARRC. The integral and affiliated HQ ARRC units are listed as follows.

*Unit name*

*HQ ARRC Group*

1 (UK) Signals Brigade (includes the ARRC Support Battalion)

12 (UK) Signals Group

Postal and Courier Support (99 Postal and Courier Squadron Royal Logistic Corps)

Operational Intelligence Support Group/UK National Intelligence Cell/12 Military Intelligence Company

Command and Liaison Flight (12 Fleet Army Air Corps)

Geographic Section (14 Geographic Squadron Royal Engineers)

*(B) Affiliated To HO ARRC*

*ARRC Combat Support*

1(UK) Artillery Brigade

16 Air Assault Brigade

Multinational Engineer Brigade (based on 8 (UK) Force Engineer Brigade)

Engineer Battalion (2) (Not identified—would be identified through force generation if/when required)

Electronic Warfare Battalion (14 Signal Regt)

Special Operations Forces

Joint Helicopter Force

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Regiment (Joint CBRN Regiment)

Electronic Warfare Coordination Cell (from 14 Signal Regiment)

Engineer Works Team

*Combat Service Support*

Port Regiment (17 Port and Maritime Regiment Royal Logistic Corps)

Movement Control Company Battalion (162 Movement Control Regiment Royal Logistic Corps)

Transport and Support Group (based on HQ 2 Multinational Logistic Support Group)

Medical Group (based on 2(UK) Medical Brigade)

ARRC Multinational Military Police Battalion (based on Royal Military Police Battalion HQ)

Recovery Company (Not identified—would be identified through force generation if/when required)

*ARRC Combat Affiliations*

1(UK) Armoured Division (Includes 4 (UK) Mechanised Brigade, 7 (UK) Armoured Brigade, 20 (UK) Armoured Brigade)

3 (UK) Mechanised Division (Includes 1 (UK) Mechanised Brigade, 12 (UK) Mechanised Brigade, 19 (UK) Light Brigade

*Rear Area Security Force*

Rear Area Security Brigade HQ

Mechanised Battalions (2) (Not identified—would be identified through force generation if/when required)

Reconnaissance Company (Not identified—would be identified through force generation if/when required)

Artillery Battalion (Not identified—would be identified through force generation if/when required)

Engineer Battalion (Not identified—would be identified through force generation if/when required)

**Afghanistan: Roads**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many miles of the Afghanistan Ring road run through the British Area of Operations (AO) in Regional Command South; what assessment he has made of the security of the Ring Road in Britain's AO; what percentage of the Ring Road in Britain's AO is paved; and if he will make a statement. [170826]

**Des Browne:** A total of 86 miles of the Afghan ring road lies within the British Area of Operations in Helmand Province. The entire road within Helmand is paved. Security along the route is kept under constant review. There have been a small number of isolated attacks carried out on vehicles using the ring road by insurgents and criminal elements, but it remains an effective communication route.

**Armoured Fighting Vehicles**

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors were taken into account in deciding the production and delivery timetable of *(a)* future rapid effects system utility and *(b)* reconnaissance vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [170022]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Our planning work has been and will continue to be driven by operational priorities, taking account of the experience of current operation, and planned future operations. The Department's first priority remains the delivery of the utility vehicle family. After that, the procurement of a successor reconnaissance vehicle is particularly important.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what conflict scenario the future rapid effects system has been designed for. [170117]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** FRES will provide a rapid intervention capability and will also have wide utility across the spectrum of conflict, supporting three main types of operation:

Rapid intervention;

Peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations;

High intensity war-fighting operations.

**Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Afghanistan**

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 953W, on Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Afghanistan, what other new protected vehicles are required to make up the total number of Mastiff vehicles to 400. [170018]

**Des Browne:** As I explained in my answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 953W, we plan to procure some 280 Mastiff vehicles. In addition, we are planning to procure over 170 Vector vehicles, bringing the overall total of new protected patrol vehicles to over 400.

**Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Finance**

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the allocation of funding is for each future rapid effects system utility vehicle. [170118]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I am withholding the information as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

**Army: Standards**

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason there are no Army figures for 1 July 2007 published on the Defence Analytical Services Agency TSP 09. [170019]

**Derek Twigg:** Army personnel figures at 1 July 2007 were not published on 3 September due to ongoing data validation from the new Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. This is necessary to ensure the statistics are of the quality required of a National Statistics output, and do not mislead the public.

Figures for the rank structure of the Army at 1 October 2007 were published in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 9: UK Regular Forces Rank Structure, on 3 December 2007. A revised 1 July 2007 version, which will include Army figures, was also be published on 3 December 2007.

**Astute Class Submarines**

**Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the BAE Systems Barrow-in-Furness yard has the capacity to build eight Astute class submarines on time for the programme for building successor submarines to those carrying the nuclear deterrent. [165172]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]*: We are working closely with industry to deliver a sustainable UK submarine programme. The Barrow-in-Furness yard remains the centre of excellence for submarine construction in the UK, however the production capacity at the facility is a matter for BAES.

In respect of the Successor programme, as was stated in December 2006 in "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994), it would be our intention to build the new SSBNs in the UK. This will be dependent on proposals from industry that provide the right capability, at the right time and offer value for money.

**Astute Class Submarines: Repairs and Maintenance**

**Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of repairing the Astute submarine damaged during routine tests. [170413]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]*: Work is ongoing to identify the full extent of damage. The repair cost will be agreed when the scope of the recovery programme has been determined.

**Baha Mousa**

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a public apology for the death of Baha Mousa in British custody in Iraq; and what related remedial steps he has taken since the completion of court proceedings on the case. [170012]

**Des Browne:** The death of Mr. Baha Mousa is a matter of deep regret to the Ministry of Defence. I will make a statement in the new year, after taking account of representations from the lawyers representing Mr. Mousa's family about the nature of any further inquiries that would be necessary to ensure relevant lessons are learned. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to make any further comment at this stage.

In February 2005, the then Chief of the General Staff announced that he had appointed a senior Army officer, Brigadier Aitken, to assess what lessons the Army needed to learn in light of deliberate abuse against Iraqi civilians. My predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), gave an undertaking that the findings of the resulting report would be made public. I expect to announce the publication of those findings in due course.

**Balkans Operational Reserve Force**

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the state of readiness of NATO's Balkans Operational Reserve Force; and if he will make a statement. [171232]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]*: The NATO pan-Balkans Operational Reserve Force, currently made up of a battalion from the UK, Germany and Italy, continues to provide the necessary stand-by capability to reinforce both KFOR in Kosovo (in support of the NATO-led Operation Joint Enterprise) and EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina (in support of the EU-led Operation Althea). The UK continues to work with our EU and NATO partners to deliver peaceful progress in the Balkan region. However, if force commanders judge military reinforcements are required, the UK is prepared to meet its responsibilities as the provider of the highest readiness (four days notice to move) reserve battalion from 1 January 2008.

**Defence Estates: Charities**

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the Land Management Services Budget Manager of Defence Estates Operation South has in reviewing procedures for waiving liability charges for charities holding events on his Department's property. [170848]

**Derek Twigg:** The Land Management Services Budget Manager of Defence Estates Operation South does not have a role in reviewing procedures for waiving liability charges for charities holding events on Ministry of Defence property.

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has charged charitable organisations for events held on departmental property in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [171347]

**Derek Twigg:** This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Defence: European Union**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to discuss a European defence capabilities charter with his EU counterparts. [170010]

**Des Browne:** Our objective is to enhance the separate defence capabilities of European nations, so that Europe can play a more effective role in reducing conflict and reinforcing peace. We are therefore encouraging partners rapidly to develop the more effective, deployable, interoperable and sustainable forces required for current and likely future operations. These capabilities would be available for, and enhance, multilateral crisis interventions, including those delivered through the NATO and the UN.

**Departmental Buildings**

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated budget is for his Department's headquarters refurbishment project for each of the next 10 years. [170813]

**Derek Twigg:** The estimated budget for the provision of fully serviced office accommodation in the Ministry of Defence's main building and old War Office building is set out in the following table.

| | *£ million* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 94.9 |
| 2009-10 | 93.3 |
| 2010-11 | 93.3 |
| 2011-12 | 95.4 |
| 2012-13 p | 96.8 |

| | £ million |
|---|---|
| 2013-14 | 98.0 |
| 2014-15 | 98.7 |
| 2015-16 | 98.3 |
| 2016-17 | 100.3 |
| 2017-18 | 107.7 |

These figures (VAT inclusive) cover the costs for the major redevelopment of the main building, as well as for the ongoing provision of services. The planned closure of the old War Office building will be fully reflected in future budgets.

### Departmental Climate Change

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 to adapt to the effects of climate change as they affect his Departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [165258]

**Derek Twigg:** MOD is working with other Government Departments on the security implications of climate change. Underpinning this work is climate modelling by the Hadley Centre in the Met Office, a MOD Trading Fund, to predict future climates and assess their defence implications in strategically important regions.

The implications of climate change will be factored into the Department's acquisition planning and future operating procedures to ensure that the armed forces can continue to perform effectively.

Climate change will also have consequences for the management of defence in the UK with some low lying sites vulnerable to rising sea levels and flooding. Adaptation to climate change has therefore been embedded in the appraisal methodology and tools used on all estate-related plans, programmes, projects and activities.

The Department is not just preparing to adapt; we also recognise that we have an important role in mitigating climate change. Improvements in energy management and energy efficiency have delivered reductions in estate carbon dioxide emissions. We are on track to meet cross-Government targets for reducing these emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11 and by 30 per cent. by 2020 in line with our commitments under the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that personal information relating to members of the public is *(a)* stored and *(b)* transported securely. [168478]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer my right hon. Friend to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### EU Defence Policy

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK services personnel wear EU insignia; and where those personnel are based. [170594]

**Des Browne:** Any UK military personnel seconded to the EU Military Staff or deployed on EU military missions may be required to wear EU insignia during the course of their duties.

18 UK military personnel are currently seconded to the EU Military Staff in Brussels. A further 19 military personnel are currently deployed on EU military missions: 13 in Bosnia Herzegovina; two in Sudan; and four in Paris as part of the proposed ESDP mission to Chad/Central African Republic, two of whom would deploy to Chad/Central African Republic as part of the Force Headquarters.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role of the Head of the EU Command Element, Naples is; and to whom he reports. [170602]

**Des Browne:** The role of the Head of the EU Command Element in Naples is to work closely with NATO staffs based at the Naples NATO Joint Force Command on co-ordinating and deconflicting EU/NATO military issues in the Balkans, including the availability to the EU of NATO common assets and capabilities in support of the EU-led Operation ALTHEA in Bosnia-Herzegovina under the "Berlin Plus" arrangements. He reports to NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Command Europe in the latter's capacity as Operation Commander for Operation ALTHEA.

### European Fighter Aircraft

**Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what he estimates the lifetime cost of Typhoon will be if the Government *(a)* complete the order for Tranche 3 and *(b)* cancels Tranche 3. [170641]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The UK has undertaken, through international MOU arrangements, to procure 232 Typhoon aircraft in three tranches. So far, the UK has contracted for the delivery of two tranches, comprising 144 aircraft. Decisions on Tranche 3 will be taken in due course, in conjunction with our partner nations, once we have analysed and considered the relevant information. The estimated cost of the Eurofighter Typhoon programme is commercially sensitive information which is protected in order to maintain our negotiating position for future acquisitions on the Typhoon programme. It is therefore inappropriate to speculate on the lifetime cost for either of the options outlined.

### Future Large Aircraft

**Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of the 25 airlift A400M aircraft is; and whether the order is on a fixed value contract. [170021]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The current forecast cost of the UK A400M programme is £2,629 million. The contract is Fixed Price with the reference price expressed in 1998

Economic Conditions and subject to a Price Revision Formula based on the Eurostat Gross Domestic Product index.

## Helicopters

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions his Department leased helicopters from commercial contractors in each year since 2003; and what the cost was in each year. [169345]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Details of helicopters leased from commercial contractors since 2003 are given in the following table. All costs are exclusive of VAT.

Total costs in each financial year only have been included. I am withholding information about individual contract value as its release would or would be likely to prejudice commercial interests.

| | | *Total (£ million)* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | FB Heliservices Ltd. Training task (Bell 212HP). | — |
| 2004-05 | FB Heliservices Ltd. Training task (Bell 212HP). | |
| | Aviation support to UK interests in the Far East (Bell 212AH Mkl). | |
| | Total | 5.3 |
| 2005-06 | FB Heliservices Ltd. Training task (Bell212HP). | |
| | Aviation support to UK interests in the Far East (Bell 212AH Mkl). | |
| | Total | 5.3 |
| 2006-07 | FB Heliservices Ltd. Training task (Bell212HP). | |
| | Aviation support to UK interests in the Far East (Bell 212AH Mkl). | |
| | Air crew training. (Bell 212) | |
| | British International T/A Veritair Ltd. Logistics support and supply to Falkland Island units (Sikorsky S61N) | |
| | Westland Helicopters Ltd. Training and VIP short haul AgustaA109E) | |
| | Total | 11 |
| 2007-08 | FB Heliservices Ltd. Training task (Bell212HP). | |
| | Aviation support to UK interests in the Far East (Bell 212AH Mkl). | |
| | Air crew training (Bell 2 12) | |
| | British International T/A Veritair Ltd. Logistics support and supply to Falkland Island units (Sikorsky S61N) | |
| | Westland Helicopters Ltd. Training and VIP short haul (AgustaA109E) | |
| | Total | 11 |

**Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the age is of the oldest *(a)* Puma and *(b)* Chinook helicopters in operational military service. [171066]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The oldest Puma helicopters in operational military service are XW198 and XW199, both having entered service in January 1971; they are 36 years old.

The oldest Chinook helicopter in operational military service is ZA670, having entered service in September 1980; it is 27 years old.

## Hydrographic Office

**Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the UK Hydrographic Office's budget was spent on *(a)* travel expenses and *(b)* marketing events and publications in 2006-07. [170842]

**Derek Twigg:** During financial year 2006-07, the percentage of the total gross operating costs, excluding interest, of the UK Hydrographic Office trading fund (i.e. excluding its non-public sector subsidiaries), was:

2.49 per cent. for travel and subsistence expenses;

and

1.26 per cent. on marketing events and publications.

For the purpose of this reply it has been assumed that publications relate to promotional materials, as opposed to the cost of navigational publications produced by the UK Hydrographic Office for sale.

## Iraq

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 8 October 2007, *Official Report,* columns 21-25, on Iraq, whether service personnel relocated from Iraq to Kuwait will receive the *(a)* Operation Telic medal and *(b)* operational allowance. [169577]

**Des Browne:** The MOD is at an advanced stage in its arrangements concerning a regional support facility to support UK armed forces in south east Iraq but has yet formally to conclude the negotiation process. On eligibility for the operational allowance, I have nothing further to add to the response I gave to the hon. Gentleman during the defence policy debate on 16 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 720. The military chain of command is currently considering appropriate arrangements to recognise operational deployments to the region following the planned transfer of security responsibility for Basra to Provincial Iraqi control.

## Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar and *(e)* VC-10 aircraft sorties were flown in support of the 2004 Spearhead Land Element's deployment to Kosovo in March 2004. [170805]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The number of sorties flown in support of the 2004 Spearhead Land Element's deployment to Kosovo in March 2004 is as follows:

| *Aircraft* | *Number of sorties* |
|---|---|
| C-17 Globemaster | 5 |
| C-130K Hercules | 15 |
| C-130J Hercules | 15 |
| Tristar | 1 |
| VC-10 | 6 |

## Radioactive Materials

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide examples of the nuclear materials for which his Department makes special handling arrangements. [171104]

**Des Browne:** Examples include plutonium 239, uranium enriched in the isotope 235, and any material containing either of these materials.

## RFAS IPT Category Management

**Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department has signed with RFAS IPT Category Management since 2003; and what the value was of each. [169883]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The Category Management procurement process was introduced into the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Support Integrated Project Team in 2004 and the first contract to incorporate this process was placed in 2005. To date, 13 such contracts have been placed, as detailed in the following table:

| *Contract* | *Value (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| *Financial year 2005-06* | |
| RFA Argus | 12.0 |
| RFA Wave Ruler | 2.9 |
| RFA Oakleaf | 4.2 |
| RFA Sir Bedivere | 3.6 |
| RFA Gold Rover | 8.6 |
| RFA Sir Galahad | 2.6 |
| *Financial year 2006-07* | |
| RFA Sir Bedivere | 2.2 |
| RFA Bayleaf | 5.0 |
| RFAs Fort George and Orangeleaf | 8.0 |
| *Financial year 2007-08* | |
| RFA Diligence | 12.7 |
| RFA Wave Knight | 4.7 |
| RFA Black Rover | 4.2 |
| RFA Fort Austin | 12.0 |
| Total | 82.7 |

## Royal Fleet Auxiliary

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what external consultancy costs have been incurred by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Support Integrated Project Team since 2002. [168759]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Since 2005, £1.09 million has been spent on a range of external consultancies for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Support Integrated Project Team. Information prior to 2005 is not available as electronic information management systems do not separately identify external consultancy costs and manual records are no longer available.

## Submarines

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many months each Royal Navy attack submarine in service spent *(a)* on operations and *(b)* in maintenance in each year since 1997. [165880]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Following the definitions of operations and maintenance I set out in my letter to the hon. Member on 5 November, the number of months each Royal Navy attack submarine spent on both in each year since 1997 were as follows:

| | *FY 1997-98* | | *FY 1998-99* | | *FY 1999-2000* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Vessel* | *Op time* | *Maintenance* | *Op time* | *Maintenance* | *Op time* | *Maintenance* |
| Splendid | 4 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| Spartan | 6 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 12 |
| Sovereign | 0 | 12 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Superb | 0 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Sceptre | 1 | 11 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Trafalgar | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| Turbulent | 1 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 1 |
| Tireless | 0 | 12 | 0 | 11 | 6 | 5 |
| Torbay | 6 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 11 | 1 |
| Trenchant | 5 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 12 |
| Talent | 2 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| Triumph | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 |

| | *FY 2000-01* | | *FY 2001-02* | | *FY 2002-03* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Vessel* | *Op time* | *Maintenance* | *Op time* | *Maintenance* | *Op time* | *Maintenance* |
| Splendid | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 2 |
| Spartan | 0 | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 11 |
| Sovereign | 3 | 9 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 11 |
| Superb | 3 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 11 |
| Sceptre | 0 | 12 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 10 |
| Trafalgar | 0 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 10 |
| Turbulent | 2 | 10 | 0 | 9 | 11 | 1 |
| Tireless | 2 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 3 |
| Torbay | 0 | 12 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Trenchant | 0 | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Talent | 0 | 12 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Triumph | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 8 |

| | *FY 2003-04* | | *FY 2004-05* | | *FY 2005-06* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Vessel* | *Op time* | *Maintenance* | *Op time* | *Maintenance* | *Op time* | *Maintenance* |
| Splendid | 4 | 8 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Spartan | 0 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| Sovereign | 2 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 6 |
| Superb | 0 | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 11 |
| Sceptre | 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Trafalgar | 0 | 12 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| Turbulent | 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| Tireless | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 12 |
| Torbay | 8 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 4 |
| Trenchant | 0 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| Talent | 0 | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Triumph | 8 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 12 |

| Vessel | FY 2006-07 Op time | Maintenance |
|---|---|---|
| Spartan | [1] | [1] |
| Sovereign | [1] | [1] |
| Superb | 5 | 6 |
| Sceptre | 4 | 8 |
| Trafalgar | 5 | 7 |
| Turbulent | 7 | 3 |
| Tireless | 0 | 11 |
| Torbay | 7 | 3 |
| Trenchant | 0 | 11 |
| Talent | 0 | 8 |
| Triumph | 0 | 12 |

[1] Decommissioned

The figures given have been rounded to whole months.

The tables do not include leave, trials and work-up periods.

### Submarines: Finance

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost to his Department is of extending the out-of-service date of the existing fleet of submarines until the in-service date of the Astute class submarines is reached. [169620]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The out of service dates of the Swiftsure and Trafalgar class submarines were adjusted during the Department's 2004 planning round to reflect the planned in-service dates of the Astute class submarines and the decision, announced in the July 2004 White Paper Delivering Security in a Changing World-Future Capabilities (Cmd 6269), to reduce the size of the submarine fleet. As a consequence, some submarines had their service lives extended, and others had theirs reduced. No estimate has been made of whether any associated costs are specifically attributable to adjustments to the out of service date of the existing fleet to meet the in-service dates of the Astute class.

### Travel

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months; [171246]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171259]

**Derek Twigg:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1620W.

### Warships

**Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy ships are *(a)* operational, *(b)* in reserve, *(c)* available for sale to a foreign navy and *(d)* waiting to be scrapped. [171118]

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The Royal Navy has a total of 75 surface vessels available for operations at various states of readiness ranging from those that are available immediately to those that may require 365 days or more notice to deploy. I am withholding information about the readiness states of most Royal Navy vessels as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces. The exceptions are for those in refit and the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible. Three vessels are currently in refit and at Low or Very Low Readiness (typically between 91 and 365 days notice). HMS Invincible is at a lower readiness state than any other RN vessel and although she is capable of being returned to active duty in the Fleet (at about 18 months notice), there are no plans or requirement at this time to do so.

In addition to the 75 surface vessels available for operations, four vessels are currently available for Government to Government sale; two of these have recently been sold for recycling and three are awaiting sale for recycling.

### Work Sharing

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to promote job-sharing among its employees; and how many people in his Department job-share. [169393]

**Derek Twigg:** The total number of job sharers recorded on the MOD human resource management system is 530.

The vast majority of posts are open to part-time or job share. The MOD also offers flexible working generally to staff (where operational/business constraints permit) as a tool to improve work life balance.

## DUCHY OF LANCASTER

### Climate Change

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Cabinet Office *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change as they affect the Office's responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [166423]

**Phil Hope:** The Cabinet Office is committed to addressing both the causes and consequences of climate change. We will identify priority areas for action in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change, as they affect the Cabinet Office's responsibilities, once the Climate Change Bill and the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change—Adaptation Policy Framework has been published.

### Departmental NDPBs

**Mr. Burns:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what non-departmental public bodies have been *(a)* established and *(b)* abolished since 1 May 1997. [171110]

**Gillian Merron:** Information on all non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) is published annually by the Cabinet Office. Information covering the period 1997-2006

appears in the Cabinet Office "Public Bodies" publications and can be downloaded from the civil service website at: www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Departments are in the process of collating information for 2007 and a summary will be published by the Cabinet Office in due course.

**Government Departments: Property**

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what was the average amount of *(a)* vacant space and *(b)* total area, in square metres, recorded on the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service (e-PIMS) database for Government Departments and executive agencies for which information was held, in each year since the database was created. [171456]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

In 2005-06 the total floor area recorded on e-PIMS was 12,753,581 $m^2$ and the amount of vacant space was 255,929 $m^2$.

In 2006-07 the total floor area recorded on e-PIMS was 13,713,489 $m^2$ and the amount of vacant space was 340,235 $m^2$.

The total area currently recorded on e-PIMS is 13,977,243 $m^2$ and the amount of vacant space is 496,416 $m^2$.

Figures are included from 2005-06 because this is the earliest that comparator data became available. It is estimated that e-PIMS saves the Government £8 million a year.

**Information Sharing Vision**

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the timetable is for implementation of the proposals in his Department's statement on Information Sharing Vision. [171450]

**Mr. Wills:** I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice is leading a cross-Government programme to deliver a package of measures over the next three to five years that will enable public sector organisations to share information to improve personalised public services, increase public safety and tackle social exclusion in an environment of openness and respect for citizens' privacy and access rights.

This work will also take account of the findings of the independent review of the scope of sharing personal information and the protections that apply when personal information is shared in the public and private sectors. Richard Thomas, the Information Commissioner and Dr. Mark Walport, Director of the Wellcome Trust who jointly head this review will report their findings in the first half of 2008.

**Students: Fees and Charges**

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he plans to introduce the scheme announced in the 2006 pre-Budget report to reduce tuition fees for students participating in volunteering schemes. [169593]

**Phil Hope:** The Office of the Third Sector commissioned the youth volunteering charity v to conduct research into young people's views on the tuition fees scheme. Following the research findings The Office of the Third Sector and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills are considering options for the scheme.

## ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

**Climate Change**

11. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to help individuals to identify the steps they can take to act on climate change. [171740]

**Joan Ruddock:** DEFRA and some other Government Departments run information programmes aimed at helping individuals to understand the link between their own actions and $CO_2$ emissions and how they can take action to reduce their carbon footprint.

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change as they affect his Departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [165578]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Climate Change Bill, which it is hoped will receive Royal Assent by mid 2008, will provide a strong sustainable framework for adapting to the impacts of climate change. It will require Government to report at least every five years on current and predicted impacts of climate change, and on its proposals and policy for adapting to these.

DEFRA is also leading on the development of a cross-Government Adaptation Policy Framework to be published in the spring. The Framework aims to provide a consistent approach to building adaptation into policies, and a coherent way to identify cross-cutting risks and opportunities and to assist in prioritisation of action across Government.

In October 2008, the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), will launch the DEFRA-funded UK 21st Century Climate Change Scenarios (UKCIP08) programme. This will provide accurate modelling and practical tools to help organisations (like local authorities and businesses) assess and address climate change impacts for the UK up to 2100 at a regional and local level. We will continue to develop the tools and actions to address climate change in the coming decades.

DEFRA is also considering the impacts of climate change for priority sectors. With the prediction of wetter winters and drier summers, water is on the front line of climate change adaptation. We will be launching a new Water Strategy, early in 2008, which will put adaptation at the heart of policy-making and ensure that water management is fit for the future. The increased flood risk from climate change is also one focus of the separate cross-Government long-term flood management strategy, 'Making Space for Water'. The strategy is encouraging a holistic approach to the management of flood risk, together with increasing

awareness and emergency preparedness within communities to help them better cope with flood events when they occur.

In addition, my Department continues to take a strong lead internationally on climate change. For example, we are working to provide a detailed assessment of potential impacts of climate change in India, and to identify and develop adaptation strategies. The project will look to improve climate change scenarios for India up to 2050 and will assess the impact of climate change nationally on water resources, agriculture and forestry.

### Joint Environmental Policy

12. **Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to discuss joint environmental policy with his counterparts in the governments of Japan and China. [171741]

**Hilary Benn:** The UK continues to work closely with China and Japan in its ongoing international work programmes. This includes the UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue and a number of programmes on climate change. With Japan, we are working closely on a number of environmental issues including, climate change, biodiversity, forestry and resource efficiency.

### Carrier Bags

13. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the practice of retailers giving away single use carrier bags free of charge. [171742]

**Joan Ruddock:** The Government pledged in the Waste Strategy for England 2007 to phase out single use carrier bags issued free at point of sale.

The Prime Minister signalled his commitment to this goal in his speech to the Foreign Press Association on the 19 November. We are actively working on the best means by which we can achieve this objective.

### Fisheries Policy

14. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last met his counterparts in the devolved administrations to discuss fisheries policy; and if he will make a statement. [171744]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I have met them on several occasions in recent weeks and last month we agreed the UK priorities for the December Fisheries Council, reflecting their respective interests.

### Climate Change Meeting: Bali

15. **Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what policy objectives the Government will pursue at the meeting on international climate change policy at Bali in December. [171745]

**Hilary Benn:** UK objectives for Bali are clear—we need to ensure we launch broad and comprehensive negotiations that include all parties leading—by the end of 2009—to a comprehensive global agreement to tackle climate change.

### National Food Security

16. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on Government policy on national food security. [171746]

**Hilary Benn:** Food security is about ensuring consumers have access to a stable and adequate supply of food. This requires effective risk management, security of our energy supplies, access to food from a variety of sources, a strong food chain and infrastructure and the capacity and contingency planning to deal with specific risks to our food supply.

### Foot and Mouth and Bluetongue

17. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the situation regarding foot and mouth disease and bluetongue disease. [171747]

**Hilary Benn:** Following extensive surveillance work, DEFRA lifted the foot and mouth disease (FMD) restricted zone on Monday 19 November. A Commission decision has allowed the establishment of FMD areas to enable the export of meat and meat products from much of GB.

There have been 66 confirmed cases of bluetongue since 28 September with the latest case on 3 December. However, the rate of new cases has stowed significantly and they have all been confined to the protection zone in the east and south east of England.

### Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

18. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the operation of the nitrate vulnerable zones action programme; and if he will make a statement. [171748]

**Mr. Woolas:** We have recently conducted a comprehensive assessment of the nitrates vulnerable zone action programme, as part of the four-yearly review required by the nitrates directive. Proposals and supporting evidence to revise the current programme, in light of that review, are set out in a DEFRA consultation issued in August 2007; the closing date for comments is 13 December 2007.

### Departmental Funding: Small Organisations

19. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of changes to his Department's budget on the funding it provides for small organisations. [171749]

**Hilary Benn:** The Department carefully takes into account the impact of changes to funding provided to all organisations big or small.

I have not been made aware of any changes to the budget that might have had any particular effect on small organisations. However, as planned, the rural social and community programme will close on 31 March 2008. The programme is a two-year investment to develop the capacity of the rural voluntary and community and parish council sectors, to address important social issues and tackle the causes of rural social exclusion. There are strands of work supported under the programme that we hope to develop beyond March 2008. We will set out our plans in greater detail in the very near future.

### Diverse Composition Products

20. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with manufacturers on minimising products of diverse composition. [171750]

**Joan Ruddock:** Neither I nor my colleagues have had any recent discussions with manufacturers specifically on this issue.

However, our policies to make producers responsible for their products give businesses incentives to design products that use fewer materials, avoid the use of harmful substances, last longer and are easy to disassemble and recycle.

### Carbon Dioxide Emissions

21. **Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the transport sector. [171751]

**Mr. Woolas:** We regularly meet with Department for Transport Ministers to discuss ways that the transport sector can contribute to our commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The recently published 'Towards a Sustainable Transport System' demonstrates the Government's commitment to ensuring the transport sector plays its full role in tackling climate change.

### Flood Sirens: Norfolk

22. **Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the future provision of flood sirens in Norfolk. [171752]

**Mr. Woolas:** The Environment Agency provides flood warnings to the public by local radio and directly to individuals by telephone, mobile phone, text messages, emails, pagers and faxes through its Floodline Warnings Direct service. The Agency considers these communication methods more effective than sirens.

### Energy Efficiency Direction Orders

23. **Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria he uses in deciding whether to issue an energy efficiency direction order in response to local authorities failing to meet targets set in the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. [171753]

**Mr. Woolas:** When considering whether to issue discretionary directions, we would need to consider the balance between this option and those measures identified in the 2006 Climate Change Programme and the Local Government White Paper.

### Brazilian Beef

**Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the safety of imported Brazilian beef; and if he will make a statement. [171736]

**Jonathan Shaw:** I am aware of the concerns being expressed about beef imported from Brazil. The European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office has carried out a number of inspection visits to Brazil in recent years to look at official controls on foot and mouth disease, production methods and traceability. We will continue to work closely with the Commission to ensure the findings and recommendations from these inspection visits are followed up with appropriate action.

### Agriculture: Sewage

**Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to amend his Department's guidelines on spreading sewage sludge on farmland to prohibit the spreading of sewage sludge on farmland adjoining villages and other centres of population. [171840]

**Mr. Woolas:** When carried out in accordance with best practice, spreading sewage sludge to agricultural land can be a sustainable activity which improves the soil and provides nutrients for plant growth. The activity is currently controlled under the Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989, which set standards and application regimes for treated sludge, and require septic tank sludge to be worked into soil as soon as possible after spreading.

The Government are currently considering whether amendment of the regulations might help to address the concerns of residents in the vicinity of sludge spreading, particularly with regard to septic tank sludge, and whether alternative approaches, such as updating the code of practice for sludge spreading, might be appropriate.

### Beaches: EU Law

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in transposing the revised Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) into domestic law; and when he expects the provisions of the directive to be fully implemented in the UK. [170432]

**Mr. Woolas:** England is currently on target to meet the revised bathing water directive's transposition date of 24 March 2008. The revised directive will be fully

implemented in England following the 2015 bathing season, when it is proposed that the first bathing water classifications are made.

DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government launched a joint public consultation on 12 November 2007 inviting comments on their proposals for the implementation of the revised bathing water directive in England and Wales. The deadline for consultation responses is 4 February 2008. Further details are available on the DEFRA website.

Comments on the consultation in Wales are a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government. Further information on the progress made towards transposing and implementing the directive in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, is available from the relevant devolved administration.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of English bathing waters met the standards required by the current Bathing Water Directive in each of the last five years. [171186]

**Mr. Woolas:** The percentage of bathing waters in England complying with the mandatory standards for total and faecal coliforms for the last five years is:

| | *Percentage* |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 98.5 |
| 2003 | 98.8 |
| 2004 | 98.3 |
| 2005 | 98.8 |
| 2006 | 99.5 |

The figure for 2007 is 97.8 per cent.

**Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment has been made of the capability of the Environment Agency to assess bathing water quality using fewer microbiological indicators as proposed in the revised Bathing Water Directive, 2006/7/EC. [171187]

**Mr. Woolas:** The revised Bathing Water Directive (rBWD), 2006/7/EC, came into force last year and updates and simplifies the current Bathing Water Directive (cBWD), 76/160/EEC, following developments in scientific and technical knowledge over the last 30 years. As a result of these developments, the rBWD, unlike the cBWD, only requires member states to test for two types of bacteria (intestinal enterococci and Escherichia coli) to be monitored as the best indicators of the risk of mild gastrointestinal illness in bathers.

The Government have formed a Bathing Water Technical Advisory Group comprising of the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Northern Ireland Environment and Heritage Service, which will assess the implications of monitoring and analysing the two new microbiological indicators.

The Environment Agency also has an internal project in place which is overseeing the transfer from monitoring requirements under the cBWD to the rBWD, while maintaining a high level of quality assurance.

## Energy Saving Trust: Finance

**Jenny Willott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much was allocated to the Energy Savings Trust in the last Budget; and if he will make a statement; [171521]

(2) how much has been allocated to the Energy Savings Trust in each year since it was founded; and if he will make a statement. [171523]

**Mr. Woolas:** DEFRA grant funds the Energy Saving Trust year-on-year, supporting the valuable work it undertakes to encourage and promote the sustainable and efficient use of energy. My Department has grant funded the Trust annually as follows[1]:

[1] These figures show the main grant funding and do not include additional money to the Energy Saving Trust for work they do on managing research and other management contracts.

| | *Funding (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 25 |
| 1997-98 | 19 |
| 1998-99 | 19 |
| 1999-2000 | 23 |
| 2000-01 | 22 |
| 2001-02 | 22 |
| 2002-03 | 24 |
| 2003-04 | 25 |
| 2004-05 | 28 |
| 2005-06 | 27 |
| 2006-07 | 27 |
| 2007-08 | 29 |

## Floods: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of Gloucestershire county council to discuss its recent report on flooding in the area. [170103]

**Mr. Woolas:** I understand Gloucestershire county council have provided a copy of their report to Sir Michael Pitt, who is leading an independent review of the summer's flooding, on behalf of the Government.

## Floods: Gravesham

**Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on ensuring the safety of new homes built on flood plains in Gravesham. [171091]

**Mr. Woolas:** Local planning authorities are responsible for assessing planning applications including any flood risk management issues, taking account of advice from the Environment Agency. The Government issued strengthened policy on development and flood risk in December 2006, and an accompanying practice guide is being developed to provide practical guidance on how to take full account of flood risk at all stages of the planning process.

### Fly Tipping: West Midlands

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action the Government has taken to reduce incidents of fly-tipping in the West Midlands. [162986]

**Joan Ruddock:** Tackling fly-tipping and wider waste crime is a priority for the Government. Our Waste Strategy for England, published in May 2007, makes clear that initiatives to boost waste prevention and recycling should be supported by fly-tipping strategies aimed at tackling the illegal dumping of waste.

The Strategy includes the Government's Illegal Waste Activity Action Plan, which sets out what action is being taken and proposed in this area. This includes:

(i) Reviewing the controls in place to deal with the management and carriage of waste. The review aims to reduce levels of fly-tipping by making it easier for businesses to understand and comply with the regulations and make them easier for local authorities to use. This is planned for completion at the end of 2008.

(ii) Developing legislation that will give local authorities and the Environment Agency the powers to stop, search and instantly seize vehicles being used to commit fly-tipping offences. This is planned for completion at the end of 2008.

(iii) Consulting on proposals to introduce mandatory Site Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects above a certain value. This is planned for completion in April 2008.

(iv) Funding the Environment Agency's targeted campaigns to disseminate good practice to businesses and raise awareness of good waste management practices.

(v) Delivering Flycapture Enforcement, a training programme aimed at local authority officers and their legal teams to increase knowledge of the relevant legislation and develop skills in effective enforcement and prosecution of fly-tippers.

(vi) Work with stakeholders to consider how the Flycapture database can be enhanced or improved to help local authorities implement fly-tipping interventions.

DEFRA has also funded Environmental Campaigns (Encams) to deliver a programme of work on local environmental quality and fly-tipping issues in partnership with Government Offices. This work will support the poorest performing local authorities in each region through a combination of data analysis, best practice sharing and targeted seminars. It will also promote the introduction of fly-tipping targets within local area agreements.

In addition, DEFRA funded the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science to produce research on fly-tipping—"Fly-tipping: Causes, Incentives and Solutions". This included good practice guidance on crime prevention techniques, including surveillance, and has been distributed to all local authorities in England.

### Members: Correspondence

**Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 31 October on the Climate Change Bill. [171841]

**Mr. Woolas:** The hon. Member's letter was received in the Department on 5 November 2007 and a reply despatched on 4 December 2007. I will arrange for a further copy to be sent to the hon. Member.

### Rodents: Pest Control

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much Government funding went into supporting research into the development of new rodenticides in each of the last five years. [171837]

**Mr. Woolas:** In 2002 DEFRA funded a five year research project on rat control strategies costing £400,000. This included some work on use of a new rodenticide. The final report is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=VC0330_6599_FRP.doc.

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of which areas of the UK support populations of rats that have become resistant to all legally-available rodenticides. [172000]

**Mr. Woolas:** A Government funded survey was carried out in the 1990s which looked at resistance to anti-coagulant rodenticides and concluded that rodenticide resistance was becoming a significant problem in many areas.

On behalf of UK Government, the Health and Safety Executive delivers the regulatory authority role in relation to the use of rodenticide products in the UK. Last year, following agreement by the chairman of the Advisory Committee on pesticides, the HSE gave emergency approval for outdoor use of brodifacoum at one site in Winchester on the basis of an assessment that rats there appeared to be resistant to other treatments. Risks to wildlife (the reason outdoor use is not normally permitted) could be managed since it is a relatively enclosed site.

### Total Allowable Catches

**Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what percentage of the UK's Total Allowable Catch for 2008 he plans to distribute to the 10 metre and under fleet; and if he will make a statement; [170899]

(2) what percentage of the UK's Total Allowable Catch for 2008 he has allocated to the 10 metre and under fleet, broken down by *(a)* species and *(b)* fishery; and if he will make a statement. [170900]

**Jonathan Shaw:** The opening quota for the 10 m and under fleet is boosted by Fisheries Administrations acquiring additional quota in-year for their use. Information on the 10 m and under fleet's share of quota at 31 December 2006 is set out in the table. However, focusing on such an analysis can be misleading, as some of the quota stocks included are of little interest to inshore vessels. In addition, many of these vessels catch types of fish, such as crabs and scallops, which are not subject to the constraints on their activity that may be seen when targeting quota

species. Figures for landings of quota stocks and non-quota stocks are also included in the table and show that 80 per cent. of all landings by the UK 10 m and under fleet in 2006 were of non-quota stocks.

Corresponding figures for end-year quota for 2007 are not yet available, as Fisheries Administrations continue to obtain extra allocations of quota wherever possible.

*Stocks fished by the UK's 10 m and under fleet[1]: 2006*

| Quota stocks | UK quota as at 31 December (tonnes) | 10 m and under fleet's quota as at 31 December (tonnes) | Percentage of UK quota | Landings by the 10 m and under fleet (tonnes) | Percentage of UK quota |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anglers 7 (incl. 8abde) | 4,907.1 | 218.3 | 4 | 164.8 | 3 |
| North Sea Anglers | 9,509.0 | 10.2 | 0 | 10.2 | 0 |
| West of Scotland Anglers | 1,818.5 | 2.4 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 |
| Blue Whiting I-VIII,XII, XIV | 80,179.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.3 | 0 |
| Cod 7a | 1,027.9 | 19.1 | 2 | 7.8 | 1 |
| Cod 7b-k | 688.9 | 278.9 | 40 | 290.7 | 42 |
| North Sea Cod | 8,356.9 | 167.4 | 2 | 204.8 | 2 |
| West of Scotland Cod | 455.7 | 11.5 | 3 | 0.1 | 0 |
| North Sea Dabs/ Flounders | 2,218.0 | 17.6 | 1 | 15.3 | 1 |
| Haddock 7 | 1,154.0 | 35.0 | 3 | 24.4 | 2 |
| North Sea Haddock | 39,053.0 | 69.8 | 0 | 34.5 | 0 |
| West of Scotland Haddock | 6,950.7 | 11.0 | 0 | 0.3 | 0 |
| Hake 6and 7 (incl. 8abde) | 3,849.6 | 30.0 | 1 | 2.4 | 0 |
| North Sea Hake | 325.6 | 1.4 | 0 | 1.4 | 0 |
| Herring 4c/7d | 5,246.0 | 61.0 | 1 | 68.9 | 1 |
| Herring 7a (Manx and Mourne) | 4,237.9 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.8 | 0 |
| Herring 7ef | 488.0 | 151.0 | 31 | 87.5 | 18 |
| North Sea Herring | 69,010.9 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0 |
| North Sea Horse Mackerel | 3,917.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0 |
| West Coast Horse Mackerel | 11,101.1 | 6.0 | 0 | 5.9 | 0 |
| North Sea Lemon Sole/Witches | 3,430.8 | 36.0 | 1 | 33.1 | 1 |
| Deep Sea Ling IV | 2,941.8 | 2.5 | 0 | 2.5 | 0 |
| Deep Sea Ling VI-X, XII, XIV | 5,060.3 | 54.7 | 1 | 46.7 | 1 |
| North Sea Mackerel | 414.1 | 333.0 | 80 | 425.3 | 103 |
| West Coast Mackerel | 103,167.9 | 90.2 | 0 | 90.5 | 0 |
| Megrim 7 | 2,917.9 | 42.9 | 1 | 13.4 | 0 |
| West of Scotland Megrim | 903.0 | 5.0 | 1 | 0.4 | 0 |
| Nephrops 7 | 7,924.7 | 155.1 | 2 | 87.6 | 1 |
| North Sea Nephrops | 24,431.7 | 1,515.2 | 6 | 1,497.7 | 6 |
| West of Scotland Nephrops | 18,504.9 | 2,262.7 | 12 | 1,808.1 | 10 |
| Plaice 7a | 707.0 | 81.2 | 11 | 72.5 | 10 |
| Plaice 7de | 1,643.7 | 437.5 | 27 | 427.7 | 26 |
| Plaice 7fg | 118.9 | 35.9 | 30 | 34.3 | 29 |
| North Sea Plaice | 12,651.2 | 58.5 | 0 | 58.4 | 0 |
| West of Scotland Plaice | 477.0 | 5.0 | 1 | 0.2 | 0 |
| Pollack 7 | 2,658.0 | 306.3 | 12 | 271.7 | 10 |
| West of Scotland Pollack | 165.0 | 5.0 | 3 | 0.2 | 0 |
| Saithe 7 | 726.0 | 13.8 | 2 | 5.3 | 1 |
| North Sea Saithe | 9,379.0 | 14.8 | 0 | 10.0 | 0 |
| North Sea Skates and Rays | 1,695.0 | 195.8 | 12 | 181.1 | 11 |
| Sole 7a | 225.6 | 20.2 | 9 | 10.7 | 5 |
| Sole 7d | 1,215.0 | 464.9 | 38 | 419.1 | 34 |
| Sole 7e | 566.0 | 44.2 | 8 | 46.2 | 8 |
| Sole 7fg | 274.1 | 33.0 | 12 | 31.4 | 11 |
| North Sea Sole | 1,255.6 | 257.0 | 20 | 235.0 | 19 |
| West of Scotland Sole | 14.0 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.1 | 1 |
| Sprat 7de | 3,226.0 | 7.8 | 0 | 0.5 | 0 |
| North Sea Sprat | 4,944.0 | 137.8 | 3 | 92.3 | 2 |
| North Sea Spurdog | 778.0 | 8.9 | 1 | 6.9 | 1 |
| North Sea Turbot/Brill | 551.0 | 15.2 | 3 | 15.3 | 3 |
| Whiting 7a | 188.9 | 2.6 | 1 | 0.8 | 0 |
| Whiting 7b-k | 2,288.5 | 162.8 | 7 | 102.2 | 4 |
| North Sea Whiting | 11,733.1 | 312.2 | 3 | 337.4 | 3 |
| Total quota stocks | 481,672.5 | 8,208.5 | 2 | 7,285.6 | 2 |
| Total non-quota stocks | n/a | n/a | n/a | 28,600.0 | n/a |
| Total all species | n/a | n/a | n/a | 35,885.6 | n/a |

[1] Excludes vessels which are members of Producer Organisations.

## Water Supply

**Mr. Leigh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures Ofwat has put in place to improve the reliability of its consumption and leakage data. [171754]

**Mr. Woolas:** Ofwat has led a review of their approach to leakage regulation and target setting. The review looked at variation in per capita consumption, inclusion of externalities in the leakage calculation and

alternative approaches to the economic level of leakage. Ofwat expects the findings to lead to improvements at the next price review in 2009.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Afghanistan: Drugs

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response the Government has made to the call by Antonio Maria Costa, Head of the United Nations Anti Narcotics Unit, for NATO forces to tackle heroin production in Afghanistan; what the UN's policy is on paying poppy growers to *(a)* diversify and *(b)* cease poppy production; and if he will make a statement. [171392]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK is working closely with International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) allies to ensure a fully integrated approach to counter-narcotics that best supports the Afghan Government's National Drugs Control Strategy. ISAF is providing increasing support to the Afghan counter-narcotics effort, which we are encouraging. In the past few months, ISAF has provided support to a number of Afghan law enforcement operations to disrupt drug trafficking and to the Afghan Government's public information campaign to persuade farmers not to plant poppy.

The UN does not have a policy of paying poppy growers to diversify or to cease poppy production because they judge it would not work, in part due to the risk of encouraging farmers currently farming licit crops to start cultivating poppy. The Department for International Development and the World Bank have been conducting research into possible economic incentives to reduce opium production in Afghanistan. The final report will be released shortly; initial recommendations do not include subsidies or payments to farmers.

### Balkans: Politics and Government

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed the security situation in the Balkans with the Secretary of State for Defence; and if he will make a statement. [170330]

**David Miliband:** I maintain regular contacts with my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary about the security situation in the Balkans. We believe that every effort should be made to resolve issues in the region politically. The UK remains fully committed to safeguarding the region's security and contributes to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) deployment in Kosovo, KFOR, and the EU's forces in Bosnia, EUFOR. We continue to work intensively with our EU and NATO partners to deliver peaceful progress towards Euro and Euro-Atlantic integration for the whole Balkan region.

### Belarus: Entry Clearances

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider granting a waiver on the collection of biometric data for organised groups of children from Belarus affected by the Chernobyl disaster seeking to visit the UK; and if he will make a statement. [171223]

**Dr. Howells:** The requirement for visa nationals to provide biometric data as part of the visa application process was introduced under the provisions of The Immigration (Provision of Physical Data) Regulations 2006 that came into force on 4 July 2006. There are very few exemptions or exceptions to this and, of necessity, these are very tightly drawn. We do not, as a matter of policy or law, collect biometric data from children under the age of five years or from certain individuals, Heads of State, for example, but require all other applicants to comply with the requirements of the 2006 Regulation.

I am aware of the important work undertaken by UK charities to provide respite care for children affected by the Chernobyl disaster. We had hoped to collect fingerprints from these children in a separate visa application centre close to their homes thereby avoiding them having to travel to our embassy in Minsk. Unfortunately, despite lengthy negotiations we were unable to secure agreement from the Belarussian authorities. I am however pleased to confirm that we will be introducing a pilot initiative next year to enable our embassy in Minsk to collect the children's biometric data through mobile fingerprinting machines. The embassy will be working with the charities to confirm arrangements for this pilot.

### Climate Change

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 to adapt to the effects of climate change as they affect his departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [165036]

**Meg Munn:** Delivering for the Government's objectives, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has used its overseas network of posts to lobby for an ambitious post-2012 framework under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This includes pressing for ambitious efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid dangerous climate change as well as adapting to the effects of climate change which are already unavoidable. Posts will continue to play an active role in building momentum for comprehensive negotiations due to be launched at the UN climate change conference in Bali from 3 to 14 December before a global agreement in Copenhagen by 2009. Posts have also undertaken some activity to help build local capacity on adapting to climate change. The Department for International Development and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs take the lead for adaptation policy and negotiations under the UNFCCC and both will continue providing support to developing countries for adaptation activities.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports show that the impacts of climate change are already being felt. There is a need to act now and over the coming decades, both to deal with the obvious impacts (from reduced water availability to

weather-related disasters) and adjust development decisions to deal with the long-term risks (from making low cost policy adjustments to planning for large scale investments in the future). If we do not act now, and over the coming decades, we are likely to see unprecedented reversals in progress on poverty reduction. Making development resilient to climate risk will incur additional costs. Current estimates suggest this may be around US$40 billion a year by 2030—more work is needed to improve our understanding of these costs.

### Cyprus

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the value of UK exports to *(a)* the area controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus and *(b)* the Turkish-occupied northern region of Cyprus was in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [167729]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The latest data from HM Revenue and Customs state that UK exports to the Republic of Cyprus were valued at £1.02 billion in 2006. Roughly 60 per cent. of these exports were in telecommunications and sound recording apparatus.

The latest Turkish Cypriot figures for UK exports to northern Cyprus are for 2005. They state that in 2005, northern Cyprus imported US$101 million (£55.5 million at 2005 exchange rates) of goods from the UK. In the same period UK figures for exports to the Republic of Cyprus were £356 million.

### Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170166]

**Meg Munn:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office only has one contract for the provision of mail services, this is with DHL Global Forwarding (UK) Limited.

### Departmental Consultants

**Jon Trickett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid in consultancy fees by his Department in each year since 1997. [171992]

**Meg Munn:** I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe, gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 542-43W and the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Broxbourne (Mr. Walker) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 108-09W.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many electronic databases held by his Department contain *(a)* names, *(b)* addresses, *(c)* bank details and *(d)* other personal information on members of the general public; [169979]

(2) when each electronic database held by his Department containing personal information on members of the general public was first created; [169980]

(3) how many staff have access to electronic databases which contain personal information on members of the general public in his Department, broken down by grade; [169982]

(4) how many times databases held by his Department containing personal information on members of the general public have been accessed in each month for the last five years; [169983]

(5) how many requests his Department has received in each year since 1997 from the National Audit Office for access to databases containing personal information on members of the general public; [169984]

(6) what provisions his Department has in place to ensure that databases containing personal information on members of the general public are not accessed *(a)* by unauthorised staff and *(b)* for unauthorised purposes. [169985]

**David Miliband:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Eritrea: Emigration

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the effects of emigration from Eritrea on that country; and what discussions he has had with the Eritrean Government on the matter. [171014]

**Meg Munn:** We recognise the general negative economic effects emigration has on the Eritrean economy. Emigration seems highest among Eritrean youth.

Our embassy in Asmara continues to monitor the situation and has discussed emigration in the context of asylum and returns with the Eritrean Government, but has not discussed the effects of emigration on Eritrea.

### Eritrea: Press Freedom

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Eritrean Government on media freedom in Eritrea. [171013]

**Meg Munn:** We monitor the human rights situation, including media freedom, in Eritrea closely.

There is no free press in Eritrea with no independent local journalists and only two international ones. The detention without charge by the Eritrean Government of journalists is unacceptable and contravenes international human rights agreements to which Eritrea is party. Our ambassador in Asmara raises these issues with the Eritrean Government at every suitable opportunity. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials do likewise with the Eritrean embassy here in the UK.

We also raise our concerns on human rights through the EU. For example the EU lobbied Eritrea on the sixth anniversary of the detention in September 2001 of the G11, 11 members of the Eritrean political party who protested at the Government's direction in a letter to President Isaias, together with a number of journalists who were also detained at that time.

We will continue to monitor media freedom in Eritrea including the human rights situation more generally, raising our concerns with the Eritrean Government whenever possible.

### Gaza: Frontiers

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the closure of Gaza's borders; and if he will make a statement. [172016]

**Dr. Howells:** There is a pressing need to overcome the obstacles to re-opening Gaza's crossings for humanitarian goods, trade and people. The quartet (US, EU, UN and Russia) has expressed concern over the continued closure of major crossing points. The UN is actively involved in trying to find a solution. The EU has called

"on all parties to work towards an opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza".

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development issued a statement on 30 October expressing our concern at the situation in Gaza. The full text of the statement can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1193597605085&year=2007&month=2007-10-01.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in his statement to the House on 28 November, following the Annapolis Conference, that we should not lose sight of Gaza, an integral part of a future Palestinian state *Official Report*, column 284.

### Greece: Embassies

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions the British embassy in Athens has hosted receptions for UK organisations visiting the city in each of the last three years; what assessment he has made of how this compares to other UK diplomatic missions; and what funding was allocated to the embassy over this period for this purpose. [170473]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Our embassy in Athens does not distinguish between receptions for UK organisations visiting the city and other forms of entertainment. Instead, the embassy follows a written policy which requires that entertainment should support the embassy's business plan (based on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's strategic priorities). Other UK missions follow similar practice.

Since 1 January 2007 the ambassador has hosted 42 meals, 20 receptions and seven seminars or group meetings involving over 4,000 guests.

To collate a comprehensive list of events hosted from 2004-07 would incur disproportionate cost, as would the work required to assess the funding allocated to the embassy over this period for this purpose.

### Human Rights

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the United Nations General Assembly passing resolutions on human rights in individual states or territories. [171394]

**Meg Munn:** The Government consider that the UN General Assembly (UNGA) has a responsibility to address situations of human rights violations in particular countries. We believe that the most effective means of improving such situations is through a co-operative relationship between the UN human rights machinery and the Government of the relevant country. However, where the situation is of serious concern and where the Government in question refuses to co-operate or to make use of the support offered to them by the UN human rights mechanisms, it is entirely appropriate for the UNGA or the UN Human Rights Council to express concern over the situation through a resolution, if necessary without the support of the country concerned. The Government worked very actively with European Union and other partners to secure the recent adoption of resolutions by the UNGA Third Committee on the situations in Iran, Burma, Belarus and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

### Iran: Capital Punishment

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the Iranian Government on child executions in Iran. [171934]

**Dr. Howells:** We remain deeply concerned by the growing use of capital punishment in Iran, particularly with regard to juvenile executions. Although Iran has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights—both of which prohibit the use of the death penalty for crimes committed before the age of 18—Iran continues to execute more juvenile offenders than any other country in the world. We deplore the fact that there have been at least three juvenile executions so far this year.

UK, and EU, policy on the death penalty is clear: we oppose it in all circumstances and are committed to taking action on individual cases that fall below international minimum standards, including juvenile cases. The EU presidency, with strong UK support, has raised concerns about juvenile execution cases with the Iranian authorities on at least thirteen occasions this year. We also make representations in bilateral meetings with the Iranians. Most recently, senior officials raised two juvenile execution cases (Soghra Nafj-Pour and Makwan Moloudzadeh) with the Iranian ambassador on 26 October—we have since heard that their cases are being reviewed—and, in a meeting with the Iranian embassy on 23 November, protested the recent execution of Mohammad Reza Tork.

### Iran: Negotiations

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Iranian nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili and EU High Representative Javier Solana have agreed to a fresh round of talks in December; and if he will make a statement. [166129]

**David Miliband:** No meeting has been agreed for December. Javier Solana met Saeed Jalili on 30 November in London. He described the meeting as "disappointing". Accordingly, on the basis of the agreement I reached with my E3+3 colleagues in New York on 28 September, our Political Directors met in Paris on 1 December and agreed to prepare a new sanctions resolution to submit to the UN Security Council.

### Iran: Nuclear Power

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the talks between EU high representative Javier Solana and the Iranian nuclear negotiator towards meeting the mandatory UN requirement that Iran suspends the proliferation-sensitive aspects of its nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [166126]

**David Miliband:** Javier Solana met Iran's nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili on 30 November. Dr. Solana's staff reported to E3+3 Political Directors on 1 December that the meeting was 'disappointing'. Accordingly, in line with the agreement I reached with my E3+3 colleagues in New York on 28 September, Political Directors agreed to prepare a new sanctions resolution to submit to the UN Security Council.

### Iran: UN Resolutions

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Permanent Five Security Council members and Germany to agree a new Security Council Resolution on Iran is expected to take place; and if he will make a statement. [166128]

**David Miliband:** E3+3 Political Directors and Foreign Ministers are in regular touch. I agreed with my E3+3 colleagues in New York on 28 September that we would seek a vote on a new UN Security Council sanctions resolution against Iran unless both Mohammed El Baradei and Javier Solana reported a positive outcome from their dealings with the Iranians. Dr. El Baradei reported on 15 November. His report was mixed, but made clear that the International Atomic Energy Agency's visibility of Iran's nuclear programme was "diminishing". Dr. Solana's staff reported to Political Directors on 1 December and said that Solana had found his 30 November meeting with Saeed Jalili "disappointing". Accordingly, Political Directors met in Paris on 1 December and agreed to prepare a new sanctions resolution. I will continue to stay in touch with my E3+3 colleagues on the subject.

### Iraq

**Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many of his Department's personnel were assigned to the British provincial reconstruction team in *(a)* Basra and *(b)* Lashkar Gah in each year since 2005; what contact each team has with local people on reconstruction issues; and if he will make a statement; [170817]

(2) what contacts his Department's personnel assigned to the British provincial reconstruction team in *(a)* Basra and *(b)* Lashkar Gah have with local people on reconstruction issues; and if he will make a statement; [170818]

(3) how many of his Department's personnel were assigned to the British provincial reconstruction team in *(a)* Basra and *(b)* Lashkar Gah in each year since 2005. [170822]

**Dr. Howells:** The UK employs a broad range of civilian staff in support of the Governments of Iraq and Afghanistan to help develop a stable and secure environment in both countries. The Basra provincial reconstruction team (PRT) was formally established in April 2006 along with PRTs in other provinces. Since this time, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has assigned one permanent member of staff and three consultants on contract to the PRT. Nine local people have been employed as contract staff. The Department for International Development (DFID) has assigned one permanent member of staff and 12 consultants, although no more than seven DFID consultants have provided capacity building support at any one time.

Over 50 staff have been employed in Afghanistan from across the Government, including the FCO, DFID and the Afghanistan Drugs Inter-Department Unit.

Activities covered by the PRT staff in both Iraq and Afghanistan include work in governance, rule of law, reconstruction and economic development. The Lashkar Gah PRT also covers counter narcotics activities. During the period 2006 to 2008, DFID is committing £7 million to quick impact projects in Helmand for reconstruction and development projects. The PRT in Helmand has issued 91 contracts in Lashkar Gah and these are delivered through local business, suppliers and non-governmental organisations.

### Iraq: Ex Gratia Payments

**Mr. Hague:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Iraqi contracted staff there are who meet the criteria for ex gratia assistance and who work or have worked for the UK Government in Iraq *(a)* under the direct authority of the Basra provincial reconstruction team, *(b)* for the British civilian police mission or for international contractors engaged by the Government to carry out the police training programme and *(c)* for the Department for International Development's (i) Centre of Government, (ii) Ministry of Interior Capacity Building, (iii) Civil Society, (iv) Economic Reform and (v) Infrastructure Services and Governorate Capacity-building Programme; and if he will make a statement. [168378]

**David Miliband:** About 90 Iraqis who work or have worked on these programmes meet the criteria, or will meet the criteria when they have completed 12 months service.

### Iraq: Oil

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1039-40W, on Iraq: oil, whether he takes into account maximising the revenues for central government in Iraq when urging Iraqi Ministers and officials to consider the benefit of a broad range of contract types. [172028]

**Dr. Howells:** We have not taken account of maximising revenues when providing advice to the Government of Iraq. That is a sovereign matter for the Iraqis. UK advice has focused on the need to consider a range of oil contract options, consistent with international best practice, to meet the varied conditions and circumstances in Iraq.

### Iraq: Resettlement

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 39-40W, on Iraq: resettlement, how many locally employed staff in Iraq have been made redundant or have had to resign from their job because of what the Government assesses to be exceptional circumstances who had *(a)* attained and *(b)* not attained 12 months or more continuous service in each year since March 2003. [166730]

**Dr. Howells:** The Government have employed many thousands of local staff in Iraq since 2003, many for short periods of time. Before the introduction of the policy set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statements of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS and 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30-33WS, information on redundancies and resignations was not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Under the new policy, serving staff who are made redundant, or resign due to what we judge to be exceptional circumstances, can apply for assistance as set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statements of 9 and 30 October 2007, provided that they meet the eligibility criteria. Serving staff are defined as those who were in our employ on or after 8 August 2007, and comprehensive records on redundancies and resignations are therefore held from that date. Since then, two locally engaged staff have resigned due to what we judged to be exceptional circumstances. Both had completed more than twelve months service. 33 have been made redundant.

Former staff do not need to have been made redundant or resigned in exceptional circumstances in order to qualify for assistance, provided that they meet the other eligibility criteria.

### Israel: Frontiers

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the Government have had with the Israeli Government on the movement of Palestinians across borders. [171831]

**Dr. Howells:** The implementation of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access stalled following the election of Hamas in January 2006. We continue to call on both the Israelis and the Palestinians to implement the agreement. We have repeatedly raised our concerns about movement and access with the Government of Israel. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised our concerns about movement and access on his recent visit to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories from 17 to 19 November.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have taken place between the British and Israeli Governments on dismantling check points. [171832]

**Dr. Howells:** We remain concerned about the movement restrictions in the west bank. Israel has a right to protect its citizens from terrorist attack, but also a duty to ensure the effect of its security measures on the Palestinian population are minimised. We will continue to raise this concern at all levels with the Israeli government. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed movement and access issues during his recent visit to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories from 17 to 19 November.

**Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have taken place between the British and Israeli Governments on the Israeli security wall. [171833]

**Dr. Howells:** We regularly raise our concerns about the routing of the barrier with the Israeli Government and will continue to do so. We fully recognise Israel's right to self-defence but the barrier's route should be on or behind the green line, and not on occupied territory. Construction of the barrier on Palestinian land is illegal and is particularly damaging around east Jerusalem where it threatens to divide the west bank in two.

Our embassy in Tel Aviv continues to raise these concerns.

### Overseas Property

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what risk assessment his Department has undertaken in relation to the acquisition of properties by UK citizens in *(a)* Northern Cyprus and *(b)* illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. [168618]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** Our high commission in Nicosia recognises that there is a risk in relation to the acquisition of properties by UK nationals in the north of Cyprus. This is reflected in the travel advice for

Cyprus given on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website and the answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" that are sent to inquirers on request. This advice is reproduced as follows:

Property issues are closely linked to the political situation. There are a number of potential practical, financial and legal implications, particularly for those considering buying property in the north. These relate to the non-recognition of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", the suspension of EU law in northern Cyprus, the possible consequences for property of a future settlement, and the many thousands of claims to ownership from people displaced in 1974. There is also a risk that, as a result of the disputed ownership of many of the properties, purchasers could face legal proceedings in the courts of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as attempts to enforce judgments from these courts elsewhere in the EU, including the UK.

The Government have undertaken no risk assessment in relation to the acquisition of properties by UK citizens in illegal Israeli settlements.

**Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions UK citizens have sought advice from his Department in relation to property disputes in *(a)* Northern Cyprus and *(b)* illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in the last five years. [168619]

**Mr. Jim Murphy:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not kept a record of the number of occasions UK citizens have sought advice in relation to property disputes in northern Cyprus over the last five years. The FCO does, however, receive a significant number of inquiries from members of the public relating to property in northern Cyprus. The FCO is not able to directly intervene in private property disputes. However, we continue to warn potential purchasers of the risks of purchasing property in northern Cyprus, both through our online travel advice—available at www.fco.gov.uk—and in response to inquiries from the public. We also advise UK citizens in the travel advice section of our website to seek qualified legal advice from a source that is independent of the seller before purchasing property in Cyprus. Similarly, should a dispute occur as a result of a property transaction, we advise members of the public to seek qualified independent legal advice on their rights and methods of redress.

We are not aware of any occasions in which UK citizens have sought advice from the FCO on property disputes in Israeli settlements in the last five years. The Government do not advise or encourage individuals, companies or organisations to market or sell property in the settlements.

We regard all settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as illegal under international law and have repeatedly raised our concerns about settlement activity with the Israeli Government.

### Saudi Arabia: Human Rights

**Mr. Andrew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations were made to the Government of Saudi Arabia on human rights in Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the recent official Saudi visit to the United Kingdom. [171613]

**Dr. Howells:** Human rights issues were discussed as part of the Two Kingdoms Conference, the last session of which was held at Lancaster House on 29 November 2007.

### West Bank: Housing

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the removal of settlements on the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [172015]

**Dr. Howells:** The Roadmap is clear that Israel should freeze all settlement activity including the natural growth of existing settlements, and dismantle all outposts built since former Prime Minister Sharon's election in March 2001. Settlement building is contrary to international law and is an obstacle to peace. This has been our consistent position and we will continue to raise this with the Israeli government.

### Zimbabwe: EU-Africa Lisbon Summit

**Kate Hoey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the situation in Zimbabwe will be on the formal agenda of the EU/AU summit in Lisbon. [171188]

**Meg Munn:** We have taken steps to ensure that Zimbabwe will be discussed at the EU-Africa summit. The EU common position stipulates that an exemption to the restrictions on President Mugabe's travel to the EU can only be made if the meeting he attends includes a political dialogue that directly promotes democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Zimbabwe. As a consequence Zimbabwe and its appalling human rights situation will be raised.

## HEALTH

### Disabled: Children

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department will provide to match the £280 million for specialist short breaks for disabled children from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, as stated in the pre-Budget report, comprehensive spending review, Chapter 5. [163724]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis** *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* A decision on the distribution of resources announced in the comprehensive spending review is still to be made.

### Health Services: Publicity

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what he expects the cost of his Department's End Waiting, Change Lives campaign to have been by the end of 2008. [170194]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The total anticipated spend to the end of this financial year (end March 2008) is £1,221,861.10.

The campaign budget for April to December 2008 will be determined as part of the development of the Department's 2008-09 business plan, which is now under way.

## Healthcare Commission: Finance

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual budget of the *(a)* Healthcare Commission and *(b)* Commission for Social Care Inspection have been over the last five years. [171667]

**Mr. Bradshaw** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]:* The annual budgets of the Healthcare Commission (HC) and Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) over the last five years are set out as follows:

£000

| | Department of Health (DH) revenue | DH capital charges | Income | Total budget | DH capital |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Healthcare Commission* | | | | | |
| 2003-04[1] | 35,000 | — | — | 35,000 | — |
| 2004-05 | 71,694 | 1,670 | 3,250 | 76,614 | 5,072 |
| 2005-06 | 65,388 | 2,500 | 8,134 | 76,022 | 3,000 |
| 2006-07 | 71,367 | 2,800 | 8,200 | 82,367 | 4,000 |
| 2007-08 | 64,379 | 2,800 | 7,200 | 74,379 | 5,000 |

[1] Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) existed with a budget of £35 million revenue. HC took over some of CHI's functions and was being set up in 2003-04.

£000

| | DH Revenue | DH Capital Charges | Other Income | Total Budget | DH Capital |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Commission Social Care Inspectorate* | | | | | |
| 2003-04[1] | 94,320 | 10,752 | 46,290 | 151,362 | 3,000 |
| 2004-05 | 98,005 | 10,000 | 44,402 | 152,407 | 2,000 |
| 2005-06 | 86,430 | 14,490 | 56,755 | 157,675 | 6,000 |
| 2006-07 | 80,984 | 15,840 | 64,500 | 161,324 | 19,978 |
| 2007-08 | 65,371 | 12,261 | 58,600 | 136,232 | 18,707 |

[1] CSCI was being set up in 2003-04. Its predecessor organisation was National Care Standards Commission

*Notes:*

1. Figures for revenue and capital are grant-in-aid issued by the Department of Health and are the start of year figures. Figures for income are derived from the organisations' annual accounts.
2. "Other income" repreeents income largely from regulatory fees.
3. Figures for CSCI up to 2006-07 include the cost of children's social services functions transferred to Ofsted on 1 April 2007.

*Source:*

DH

## Hospitals: Waiting Lists

**Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were cancelled for each acute hospital trust in *(a)* each of the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the previous four years, broken down by specialty. [167807]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** Tables showing the number of operations cancelled for non-clinical reasons have been placed in the Library. This information is collected on a quarterly basis and is not broken down by specialty.

## Illegal Immigrants

**Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many illegal immigrants have been discovered working for his Department and its agencies in the last year for which figures are available. [170504]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** For the year 1 December 2006 to 30 November 2007 no illegal immigrants have been discovered working for the Department of Health or its agencies. Stringent identity and nationality checks are carried out as part of the recruitment procedures applied by the Department and its agencies, prior to appointment.

## Negligence

**Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence cases were closed by the NHS Litigation Authority in the last year for which figures are available; how many of those cases were funded by *(a)* legal aid, *(b)* conditional fee agreements and *(c)* other means; and how many cases in each category of funding resulted in an award of damages or a settlement involving an agreement to pay damages. [167022]

**Ann Keen:** The information requested is in the following table. The information was supplied by the NHS Litigation Authority.

*Number of clinical negligence claims closed during 2006-07*

| Funded by | Number of claims closed 2006-07 | Number of claims closed 2006-07 with damages payments |
|---|---|---|
| Conditional fee arrangement | 1,200 | 830 |
| Legal services commission | 1,883 | 1,001 |
| Other funding | 1,078 | 667 |
| Unknown funding | 2,181 | 624 |
| Total | 6,342 | 3,122 |

## NHS: Consultants

**Frank Cook:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes were completed in each of the last five years. [168351]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** The following table shows the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) completed in national health services hospitals in England from 2001-02 to 2005-06 inclusive.

| Data year | FCEs |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 14,425,259 |
| 2004-05 | 13,707,428 |
| 2003-04 | 13,296,566 |
| 2002-03 | 12,713,296 |
| 2001-02 | 12,338,590 |

*Notes:*
*FCE*
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
*Ungrossed Data*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
*Assessing growth through time*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
*Data Quality*
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
*Source:*
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

## NHS: Loans

**Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 255W, on NHS: loans, how much of the £777.881 million of loans issued to national health service trusts on 22 March was used to finance private finance initiative projects, broken down by individual trusts to which a loan payment was made. [171944]

**Mr. Bradshaw:** In 2006-07 the informal and opaque system of cash brokerage and planned support that had previously operated across the national health service, was replaced for NHS trusts by a formal system of loans. The £777.881 million of loans issued to NHS trusts on 22 March 2007 was provided to finance the consequences of historic overspending that had previously been financed informally through the cash brokerage system.

## Primary Care Trusts: Hampshire

**Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what redundancy payments were made during the last reorganisation of primary care trusts in Hampshire; and if he will make a statement. [165375]

**Mr. Ivan Lewis:** The information is not held in the format requested as individual redundancy payments are not available centrally.

The following table shows the total expenditure by primary care trusts (PCTs) in Hampshire for 2006-07, which is the latest and only year for which this information is available.

There are two measures of expenditure. The first measure is for 'redundancy'. These costs will, in previous years, have been included within an 'other/miscellaneous' category. They are for redundancy, but it is not known whether all costs included will relate to redundancy following mergers or re-organisation.

The second (stand-alone) measure is 'PCT reorganisation; redundancies and early retirement'. It is expected that these are costs relating to organisations involved in mid year mergers/reorganisation.

*Expenditure by PCTs in Hampshire 2006-07*

£000

| *Primary care trusts* | *Redundancies* | *PCT reorganisation: redundancies and early retirements* |
|---|---|---|
| Hampshire | 227 | 227 |
| Isle of Wight Healthcare | 631 | 631 |
| Portsmouth City Teaching | 45 | 0 |
| Southampton City | 81 | 0 |
| Total (Hampshire) | 984 | 858 |

*Source:*
Audited summarisation schedules of PCTs in Hampshire, 2006-07.

## Speech Therapy: Northumberland

**Mr. Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many speech therapist hours per week are available within the NHS in Northumberland. [165579]

**Ann Keen:** The information is not available in the requested format. However, the number of full-time equivalent qualified speech and language therapy staff in each national health service organisation in Northumberland is shown in the following table.

| *Organisation* | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust | 0 |
| Northumberland Care Trust | 25 |
| Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust | 16 |

*Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

## Strokes: Health Services

**Mr. Lansley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 on stroke services, broken down by primary care trust. [172041]

**Ann Keen:** Figures were not collected in 2005-06 but the programme budgeting category was further sub-divided in 2006-07 to provide 'cerebrovascular disease' under the circulation problems category. Figures are shown in the following table.

| Code | PCT name | Cerebrovascular disease (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| 5HG | Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT | 7,207 |
| 5C2 | Barking and Dagenham PCT | 2,979 |
| 5A9 | Barnet PCT | 3,381 |
| 5JE | Barnsley PCT | 2,242 |
| 5ET | Bassetlaw PCT | 1,619 |
| 5FL | Bath and North East Somerset PCT | 3,348 |
| 5P2 | Bedfordshire PCT | 4,278 |
| 5QG | Berkshire East PCT | 4,310 |
| 5QF | Berkshire West PCT | 3,673 |
| TAK | Bexley Care PCT | 4,274 |
| 5PG | Birmingham East and North PCT | 5,005 |
| 5CC | Blackburn with Darwen PCT | 2,862 |
| 5HP | Blackpool PCT | 1,475 |
| 5HQ | Bolton PCT | 2,902 |
| 5QN | Bournemouth And Poole PCT | 4,723 |
| 5NY | Bradford and Airedale PCT | 6,623 |
| 5K5 | Brent Teaching PCT | 4,372 |
| 5LQ | Brighton and Hove City PCT | 3,043 |
| 5QJ | Bristol PCT | 7,769 |
| 5A7 | Bromley PCT | 4,233 |
| 5QD | Buckinghamshire PCT | 7,117 |
| 5JX | Bury PCT | 2,560 |
| 5J6 | Calderdale PCT | 0 |
| 5PP | Cambridgeshire PCT | 4,535 |
| 5K7 | Camden PCT | 2,599 |
| 5NP | Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT | 7,436 |
| 5NG | Central Lancashire PCT | 7,864 |
| 5C3 | City and Hackney Teaching PCT | 4,350 |
| 5QP | Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly PCT | 5,641 |
| 5ND | County Durham PCT | 10,173 |
| 5MD | Coventry Teaching PCT | 5,060 |
| 5K9 | Croydon PCT | 5,313 |
| 5NE | Cumbria PCT | 13,359 |
| 5J9 | Darlington PCT | 1,931 |
| 5N7 | Derby City PCT | 3,202 |
| 5N6 | Derbyshire County PCT | 15,701 |
| 5QQ | Devon PCT | 14,853 |
| 5N5 | Doncaster PCT | 5,113 |
| 5QM | Dorset PCT | 6,389 |
| 5PE | Dudley PCT | 3,760 |
| 5HX | Ealing PCT | 3,642 |
| 5P3 | East and North Hertfordshire PCT | 3,980 |
| 5NH | East Lancashire PCT | 10,444 |
| 5NW | East Riding of Yorkshire PCT | 5,525 |
| 5P7 | East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT | 4,766 |
| 5QA | Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT | 11,055 |
| 5C1 | Enfield PCT | 3,471 |
| 5KF | Gateshead PCT | 6,182 |
| 5QH | Gloucestershire PCT | 9,933 |
| 5PR | Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT | 5,045 |
| 5A8 | Greenwich Teaching PCT | 4,333 |
| 5NM | Halton and St. Helens PCT | 6,613 |
| 5H1 | Hammersmith and Fulham PCT | 3,091 |
| 5QC | Hampshire PCT | 25,857 |
| 5C9 | Haringey Teaching PCT | 3,348 |
| 5K6 | Harrow PCT | 2,585 |
| 5D9 | Hartlepool PCT | 1,300 |
| 5P8 | Hastings and Rother PCT | 3,965 |
| 5A4 | Havering PCT | 3,795 |
| 5MX | Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT | 2,233 |
| 5CN | Herefordshire PCT | 2,608 |
| 5NQ | Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT | 3,350 |
| 5AT | Hillingdon PCT | 2,501 |
| 5HY | Hounslow PCT | 4,946 |
| 5NX | Hull PCT | 4,902 |
| 5QT | Isle of Wight NHS PCT | 2,466 |
| 5K8 | Islington PCT | 3,579 |
| 5LA | Kensington and Chelsea PCT | 2,021 |
| 5A5 | Kingston PCT | 2,824 |
| 5N2 | Kirklees PCT | 4,972 |
| 5J4 | Knowsley PCT | 1,756 |
| 5LD | Lambeth PCT | 4,140 |
| 5N1 | Leeds PCT | 10,108 |
| 5PC | Leicester City PCT | 5,220 |
| 5PA | Leicestershire County And Rutland PCT | 12,624 |
| 5LF | Lewisham PCT | 3,886 |
| 5N9 | Lincolnshire PCT | 15,124 |
| 5NL | Liverpool PCT | 9,415 |
| 5GC | Luton PCT | 2,466 |
| 5NT | Manchester PCT | 10,506 |
| 5L3 | Medway PCT | 3,127 |
| 5PX | Mid Essex PCT | 3,343 |
| 5CQ | Milton Keynes PCT | 1,813 |
| 5D7 | Newcastle PCT | 2,937 |
| 5C5 | Newham PCT | 8,440 |
| 5PQ | Norfolk PCT | 18,343 |
| 5PW | North East Essex PCT | 5,536 |
| 5AN | North East Lincolnshire PCT | 2,564 |
| 5NF | North Lancashire PCT | 5,199 |
| 5EF | North Lincolnshire PCT | 2,316 |
| 5M8 | North Somerset PCT | 3,858 |
| 5PH | North Staffordshire PCT | 3,186 |
| 5E1 | North Tees PCT | 2,323 |
| 5D8 | North Tyneside PCT | 5,320 |
| 5NV | North Yorkshire and York PCT | 10,747 |
| 5PD | Northamptonshire PCT | 9,938 |
| TAC | Northumberland Care PCT | 2,989 |
| 5EM | Nottingham City PCT | 3,812 |
| 5N8 | Nottinghamshire County PCT | 11,129 |
| 5J5 | Oldham PCT | 3,708 |
| 5QE | Oxfordshire PCT | 9,030 |
| 5PN | Peterborough PCT | 2,072 |
| 5F1 | Plymouth Teaching PCT | 5,101 |
| 5FE | Portsmouth City Teaching PCT | 3,228 |
| 5NA | Redbridge PCT | 3,233 |
| 5QR | Redcar and Cleveland PCT | 1,752 |

| Code | PCT name | Cerebrovascular disease (£000) |
|---|---|---|
| 5M6 | Richmond and Twickenham PCT | 1,933 |
| 5H8 | Rotherham PCT | 4,279 |
| 5F5 | Salford PCT | 3,112 |
| 5PF | Sandwell PCT | 3,760 |
| 5NJ | Sefton PCT | 4,914 |
| 5N4 | Sheffield PCT | 8,490 |
| 5M2 | Shropshire County PCT | 5,194 |
| TAM | Solihull Care PCT | 2,274 |
| 5QL | Somerset PCT | 10,673 |
| 5M1 | South Birmingham PCT | 6,378 |
| 5P1 | South East Essex PCT | 2,123 |
| 5A3 | South Gloucestershire PCT | 5,333 |
| 5PK | South Staffordshire PCT | 7,219 |
| 5KG | South Tyneside PCT | 4,094 |
| 5PY | South West Essex PCT | 5,922 |
| 5L1 | Southampton City PCT | 5,003 |
| 5LE | Southwark PCT | 3,205 |
| 5F7 | Stockport PCT | 4,963 |
| 5PJ | Stoke on Trent PCT | 5,151 |
| 5PT | Suffolk PCT | 11,502 |
| 5KL | Sunderland Teaching PCT | 5,462 |
| 5P5 | Surrey PCT | 11,912 |
| 5M7 | Sutton and Merton PCT | 5,342 |
| 5K3 | Swindon PCT | 1,890 |
| 5LH | Tameside and Glossop PCT | 3,437 |
| 5MK | Telford and Wrekin PCT | 2,752 |
| TAL | Torbay Care PCT | 2,625 |
| 5C4 | Tower Hamlets PCT | 2,908 |
| 5NR | Trafford PCT | 4,306 |
| 5N3 | Wakefield District PCT | 1,759 |
| 5M3 | Walsall Teaching PCT | 5,258 |
| 5NC | Waltham Forest PCT | 3,721 |
| 5LG | Wandsworth PCT | 4,064 |
| 5J2 | Warrington PCT | 4,494 |
| 5PM | Warwickshire PCT | 6,144 |
| 5PV | West Essex PCT | 3,175 |
| 5P4 | West Hertfordshire PCT | 5,591 |
| 5P9 | West Kent PCT | 7,431 |
| 5P6 | West Sussex PCT | 10,892 |
| 5NN | Western Cheshire PCT | 2,776 |
| 5LC | Westminster PCT | 4,067 |
| 5QK | Wiltshire PCT | 9,067 |
| 5NK | Wirral PCT | 5,504 |
| 5MV | Wolverhampton City PCT | 4,899 |
| 5PL | Worcestershire PCT | 7,950 |
| | England total | 805,843 |

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Climate Change

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 to adapt to the effects of climate change as they affect her departmental responsibilities; and if she will make a statement. [165038]

**Meg Hillier:** Actions the Home Office will take to adapt to the effects of climate change will be in accordance with the requirements set out in the Government's Climate Change Bill. This will augment a similar assessment carried out for the Home Office in 2003 and will follow any cross-Government adaptation policy framework that sets out Government's overall intentions in relation to adapting to the effects of climate change. It is envisaged that regular adaptation assessments will be made in the mid to long-term.

### Human Trafficking

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made on implementing the UK action plan on human trafficking. [166336]

**Mr. Coaker:** Many of the actions in the UK Action Plan have been completed or are in the process of implementation. As implementation progresses the Plan will be updated and revised. The Inter Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking meets quarterly to monitor implementation of the Action Plan and updates on progress are also provided to the Ministerial NGO Group on human trafficking.

**Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimated timetable is for full implementation of the UK action plan on human trafficking. [166410]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* Each action point in the Action Plan contains an estimated timetable for implementation. The Action Plan is a living document and as implementation progresses the Plan will be updated and revised. The Inter Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking meets quarterly to monitor implementation of the Action Plan and updates on progress are also provided to the Ministerial NGO Group on human trafficking.

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the outcomes of Operation Pentameter *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 were in relation to trafficking. [170218]

**Mr. Coaker:** Pentameter 1 resulted in the rescue of 88 victims (12 of which were children) from 22 different countries (primarily Eastern Europe, China/South-East Asia, Africa or Brazil); 232 people were arrested and 134 charged with a variety of offences.

Pentameter 2 is still ongoing. Operational results will be released following completion of the operation.

### Human Trafficking: Cambridgeshire

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether funding for Operation Pentameter II for the Cambridgeshire constabulary will be available in the financial year 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [169526]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* Police forces receive over £1 billion in grant annually. Human trafficking is core police business and all forces including Cambridgeshire constabulary should now have the capacity to deal with trafficking problems in their area.

Operation Pentameter II is a time limited operation and is due to be completed early in the 2008-09 financial year.

Decisions on the timing of further Pentameter operations have yet to be taken.

## Immigration

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the oral answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 548, on inward migration, how many and what percentage of migrants to the UK were *(a)* EEA nationals, *(b)* non-EEA nationals, *(c)* dependents and *(d)* students in each of the last five years. [163940]

**Angela Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question with reference to the Oral Answer of 15th October 2007, Official Report Column 548, on inward migration, how many and what percentage of migrants to the UK were (a) EEA nationals, (b) non-EEA nationals, (c) dependents, and (d) students in each of the last five years.

The requested figures are presented in the attached tables. Table 1 shows UK immigration for calendar years 2002-2006 separated into EEA and non-EEA nationals. UK nationals have been excluded from the EEA group and are shown separately. Table 2 shows UK immigration 2002-2006 for those 'accompanying or joining a family member' and for those immigrating for 'formal study' shown separately.

Both sets of figures are based on Total International Migration (TIM). This is the most comprehensive and only official estimate of long-term civilian migration covering both flows to and from the UK.

*Total International Migration[1]: time series, 2002 to 2006— inflows by citizenship, United Kingdom*

*Thousand*

| | *All citizenships* | *British* | *Percentage of citizenships* | *EEA[2]* | *Percentage of all citizenships* | *Non-EEA[3]* | *Percentage of all citizenships* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 513 | 97 | 19 | 61 | 12 | 355 | 69 |
| 2003 | 508 | 99 | 20 | 66 | 13 | 342 | 67 |
| 2004 | 586 | 88 | 15 | 129 | 22 | 368 | 63 |
| 2005 | 563 | 96 | 17 | 151 | 27 | 315 | 56 |
| 2006 | 591 | 81 | 14 | 167 | 28 | 342 | 58 |

[1] Based mainly on data from the International Passenger Survey. Includes adjustments for (1) those whose intended length of stay changes so that their migrant status changes; (2) asylum seekers and their dependants not identified by the IPS; and (3) flows between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
[2] EEA grouping excludes British citizens. Up to and including 2003, EEA is defined as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the EU15 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden). From 2004 onwards, the estimates also include the A8 (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) plus Malta and Cyprus. British citizens are excluded from all groupings .and shown separately.
[3] For 2004 onwards, the Non-EEA grouping excludes Malta and Cyprus plus the eight Central and Eastern European member states that joined the EU in May 2004.
*Notes:*
1. These are revised data following changes to the methodology for estimating Total International Migration (TIM). This was first introduced in the 2006 mid-year estimates released in August 2007 and in the annual TIM estimates released November 2007. Therefore they may not agree with previous estimates produced by ONS.
2. Figures have been rounded independently and may not add to totals.
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*Total International Migration[1]: time series 2002 to 2006—inflows by main reason for migration, United Kingdom*

*Thousand*

| | *All reasons* | *Accompany/ join* | *Percentage of all reasons* | *Formal study* | *Percentage of all reasons* | *Other reasons[2]* | *Percentage of all reasons* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002 | 513 | 65 | 13 | 122 | 24 | 326 | 64 |
| 2003 | 508 | 77 | 15 | 137 | 27 | 295 | 58 |
| 2004 | 586 | 102 | 17 | 148 | 25 | 336 | 57 |
| 2005 | 563 | 84 | 15 | 139 | 25 | 340 | 60 |
| 2006 | 591 | 104 | 18 | 157 | 27 | 330 | 56 |

[1] Based mainly on data from the International Passenger Survey. Includes adjustments for (1) those whose intended length of stay changes so that their migrant status changes; (2) asylum seekers and their dependants not identified by the IPS; and (3) flows between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
[2] Other reasons includes work related reasons.
*Notes:*
1. These data have been revised following changes to the TIM methodology. Therefore they may not agree with estimates that have been published previously.
2. Figures have been rounded independently and may not add to totals.
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## Kid's Company

**Mr. Clegg:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department provided to the Kid's Company in each of the last five years. [167023]

**Jim Knight:** I have been asked to reply.

Kid's Company has been in receipt of a Treasury Invest to Save budget since April 2005. The Treasury grant is for three years and ends in March 2008. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has only acted as sponsor body and has not provided the funding. Objectives for the budget (£3,427,000 over three years) are to:

Secure statutory funding to improve and sustain The Arches drop-in centre for the long term;

Replicate the model of service delivery used at the Arches;

Contribute to the policy and institutional framework on a national scale that enables organisations to support the most vulnerable and challenging young people.

Funding is as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 1,480,000 |
| 2006-07 | 1,125,000 |
| 2007-08 | 822,500 |

### Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

**Hugh Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on negotiations to allow Olympic target pistol shooters to train and compete in the UK. [168215]

**Mr. Coaker** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* Agreement has been reached in principle on the use of Ministry of Defence ranges by a small squad of elite pistol shooters. To enable this to take place I propose to use my powers under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968. Scottish Ministers have also agreed in principle to exercise their powers in a similar manner in respect of Scotland. As a next step we will be meeting the national governing bodies to establish the final details.

## INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

### Civil Law

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many civil lawsuits have been brought against his Department and its predecessors based either wholly or partially on grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court before a court judgment was delivered; and how much such settlements have cost the public purse since the Act came into force. [166877]

**Bill Rammell:** The Department does not collect central records of cases brought against it in which grounds contained in the Human Rights Act 1998 have been relied on and so the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

### Climate Change: Research

**Mr. Dai Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Natural Environment Research Council's programme quantifying and understanding the earth system in informing the Government's climate change policy. [167820]

**Ian Pearson:** A number of NERC-funded research programmes and collaborations provide scientific evidence that informs the Government's climate change policy. The Quantifying and Understanding the Earth System (QUEST) programme is just one of these; others include the RAPID Climate Change programme, the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, and the National Centre for Atmospheric Science.

NERC council has undertaken an independent mid-term evaluation of the QUEST programme, which will be published shortly. This evaluation concluded that the programme has made good links with stakeholders including central government, and that it is satisfactorily mobilising its preliminary science outputs to inform policy, and increasing the UK's capability to generate policy-relevant science.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) takes the lead within Government for climate change policy and commissions research on climate change in support of policy. It has not made an assessment of the effectiveness of the NERC programme quantifying and understanding the earth system in informing the Government's climate change policy, although it does draw on its work programmes.

### Departmental Accountancy

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what departmental budget items have been reclassified, according to the classifications in HM Treasury's Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, as a result of the decisions taken in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review; what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case; and what activity is supported by each item. [164492]

**Mr. Lammy:** There has only been one departmental budget item that has been reclassified, as a result of the decisions taken in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. The former classification was programme expenditure; the new classification is administration expenditure, the sum budgeted is £5.2 million and the activity supported is consultancy.

### Departmental Assets

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value is of each such asset; and what the expected revenue is from each such sale. [164519]

**Mr. Lammy:** The following departmental assets are planned to be sold.

Subject to parliamentary approval of the Sale of Student Loans Bill, a programme of sale of income-contingent student loans will start in 2008-09. The pre-Budget report, published on 9 October 2007, set out anticipated proceeds from the sales as follows:

| | *Anticipated proceeds (£ billion)* |
|---|---|
| 2008-09 | 3.4 |
| 2009-10 | 1.3 |
| 2010-11 | 1.6 |

The profile of actual sale proceeds will be dependent on market conditions.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on how many occasions in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies confidential data have been downloaded on to compact discs (i) without and (ii) with encryption in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; how many of those discs have been posted without using recorded or registered delivery; what procedures his Department has in place for the (A) transport, (B) exchange and (C) delivery of confidential or sensitive data; what records are kept of information held by his Department being sent outside the Department; what changes have been made to his Department's rules and procedures on data protection in the last two years; on how many occasions his Department's procedures and rules on data protection have been breached in the last five years; what those breaches were; what procedures his Department has in place on downloading confidential data on to computer discs before its transfer; what technical protections there are in his Department's computer systems to prevent access to information held on those systems which is not in accordance with departmental procedures; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's rules and procedures on the protection of confidential data on individuals, businesses and other organisations; [168257]

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has taken to protect the personal data on members of the public which it holds. [171427]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Members to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

### Departmental Manpower

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 282W, on departmental manpower, what percentage of the staff of the former Department for Education and Skills was represented by the 536 staff who are working in his Department. [170568]

**Mr. Lammy:** The percentage of the total number of staff from the former Department for Education and Skills represented by the 536 staff transferring to my Department is 16 per cent.

### Departmental Official Hospitality

**David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what entertainment or hospitality members of the Department's management board have received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164735]

**Mr. Lammy:** Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

### Departmental Public Expenditure

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills in which financial years his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year since 2001-02; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [164518]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is a new Department, therefore the Department has not had any capital underspends.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the total value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [164520]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is a new Department, therefore the Department has never breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration, *(d)* capital budgets.

### Education: Prisoners

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which level *(a)* 2, *(b)* 3 and *(c)* 4 courses were completed by prisoners in each institution in each year since 1997. [171968]

**Mr. Lammy:** I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 363W.

### Education: Prisons

**Mr. Willetts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the budget was for education in prisons in each year since 1997. [171971]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (and its predecessors) took responsibility for offender learning from the start of the 2001-02 financial year.

The budget for education in prisons since then has been:

| *Financial year* | *Budget (£ million)* |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 57 |
| 2002-03 | 73 |
| 2003-04 | 116 |
| 2004-05 | 116 |
| 2005-06 | 141 |
| 2006-07 | 146 |
| 2007-08 | 156 |

These totals include prison libraries, Heads of Learning and Skills, capital and funds passed to the Youth Justice Board for education in young offender institutions.

### Higher Education

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what plans he has for provision of funding for students studying for an MSc in clinical oncology who have already gained a first degree; [170855]

(2) what plans he has for provision of funding for post-graduate students who wish to train for a Masters qualification in health care; [170856]

(3) what plans he has for provision of funding for post-graduate students with a Post Graduate Certificate of Education who wish to gain specialist qualifications to teach children with special educational needs and autism. [170857]

**Bill Rammell** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* We have asked HEFCE to redistribute institutional funding of about £100 million a year by 2010 away from students doing a second qualification at an equivalent or lower level to the one they already hold in order that we can give more of all ages more of an opportunity to participate in higher education for the first time. However, we have asked HEFCE to consult about the best way of implementing these changes, including whether any exceptions should be made for students in particular circumstances. The consultation ends on 7 December after which decisions will be taken about the detailed implementation of the policy.

### Higher Education: Admissions

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which universities admitted *(a)* more than 90 per cent. of their students from state schools and *(b)* more than 20 per cent. of students from low participation backgrounds in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006; and if he will make a statement. [170434]

**Bill Rammell:** The latest available information has been placed in the House Library.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proposals he has to increase the number of students from state-funded schools entering Russell Group universities. [170444]

**Bill Rammell:** The Government are firmly committed to ensuring that every young person with the ability and potential to benefit from higher education has the opportunity to do so. Recently published higher education indicators show that in England we are making progress in widening participation for students from state schools, including among some of the most selective institutions such as the Russell Group—overall the proportion of state school entrants has risen by a percentage point between 2004/05 and 2005/06. It is important that individuals are able to access a course and institution that best suits their needs, including stretching and challenging the most talented.

We will continue to treat this as a priority through, among other things: continuing our support for the national Aimhigher Programme, which seeks to raise young people's aspirations and recognise higher education as a viable and valuable ambition; the role of the Office for Fair Access, which aims to promote and safeguard fair access to higher education for under-represented groups; and the new Gifted and Talented (G and T) Excellence Hubs, which seek to provide additional activities for G and T young people across the country, with particular emphasis on those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Even the most talented students must be sufficiently well prepared to study and succeed in higher education and that is why we are encouraging universities to extend and strengthen their existing links with schools so that they can help schools raise standards and attainment levels while identifying and nurturing the young students of the future.

### Higher Education: Vocational Guidance

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of careers guidance at each university. [170436]

**Bill Rammell:** It is for Universities to decide what Careers Service provision they choose to offer in light of their individual circumstances, and the needs of their student body. However, the 'Delivering Quality' report by the National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling (June 2005), found that careers education, information and guidance in higher education showed continued improvement. The majority of Higher Education Careers Advisory Services (HECASs) were accredited against the matrix standard which is a respected quality standard for information, advice and guidance services.

### Islam: Higher Education

**David Davis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which universities in the UK have departments dedicated to Islamic studies. [169697]

**Bill Rammell:** We do not collect information on whether universities have departments dedicated to Islamic studies. Courses in Islamic studies are predominantly provided in departments of theology and middle eastern studies but may also be included in a broad range of humanities and social science disciplines. In his report 'Islam at Universities in England' published earlier this year Dr. Siddiqui listed 19 departments/centres offering teaching and research related to Islam.

### Medical Research Council: Human Embryo Experiments

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Medical Research Council (MRC) has spent on research using *(a)* human embryos, *(b)* adult stem cells and *(c)* umbilical cord blood in each year since the coming into force of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; and how much the MRC plans to spend in each category of research in each of the next three years. [169468]

**Ian Pearson:** The MRC's spend on stem cell research since 2002/03 was as follows:

| | *Expenditure (£ million)* | *Type of stem cell research* |
|---|---|---|
| 2002/03 | 4.5 | Information on the type of stem cells used is not held by MRC before 2004/05. |
| 2003/04 | 14.5 | Information on the type of stem cells used is not held by MRC before 2004/05. |
| 2004/05 | 14.1 | 50 per cent. embryonic stem cells and 50 per cent. adult |
| 2005/06 | 17.4 | 55 per cent. embryonic stem cells and 45 per cent. adult |
| 2006/07 | 17.4 | — |

[1] Estimate only

Prior to 2002/03, comparable figures are not available. Umbilical cord research is included in the figures for adult stem cell research as separate figures are not available.

The MRC's estimated expenditure on stem cell research for 2007/08 is anticipated to be broadly similar to current levels. Figures are not available for the next three years but the MRC is developing strategies to increase its spend on stem cell research in line with its recently increased budgetary allocation.

### National Textile Conservation Centre

**Mr. Oaten:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has for the future of the National Textile Conservation Centre, with particular reference to services formally provided from its Winchester centre. [171464]

**Ian Pearson** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The future of the centre is a matter for the university of Southampton.

### Students: Fees and Charges

**Mrs. May:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was charged in variable tuition fees in 2006, broken down by *(a)* university and *(b)* course. [169592]

**Bill Rammell:** Information on the breakdown of variable fees charged by institution and course are not currently available. In 2006, of the 124 higher education institutions planning to charge additional fees for UK and EU full-time undergraduate students, all but eight were planning to charge £3,000. Additional information on the actual level of charges and the extra income generated will be available early next year.

### Students: Qualifications

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students in England are studying for a first degree without having at least two A-levels. [161941]

**Bill Rammell:** A-levels are not the only route into HE, nor should they be. Students access HE through a wide variety of progression routes, including Access courses, and other vocational and non-vocational qualifications. Higher education institutions also take account of other factors, for example previous experience and personal qualities, when considering the best candidates for the course in question. Ability to successfully complete a course remains an essential criterion for selecting candidates.

In 2005/06, there were 188,735 English domiciled entrants to full time first degree courses at UK higher education institutions, who had 'A' level or equivalent qualifications on entry. Of these, 2,400 (1.3 per cent.) had a tariff score of less than 80 (two E grades at 'A' level give a tariff score of 80). Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

### Vocational Education: Finance

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much was spent on Train to Gain brokers in 2006-07; and what percentage of the overall Train to Gain budget this constituted *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in London; [170769]

(2) how many Train to Gain brokers in *(a)* London and *(b)* nationally received funds from Government in 2006-07. [170412]

**Mr. Lammy:** Train to Gain is a new service that has completed its first year of national operation. In this time more than 52,000 employers have engaged with the service resulting in more than 240,000 learners. The total budget for Train to Gain was £288 million of which £25.4 million (8.8 per cent. of the total budget) was allocated to brokerage. This figure included one-off set-up costs associated with the new service. London received £4.66 million for brokerage (which equates to 18.3 per cent. of the overall brokerage budget).

The LSC contracts with 17 organisations that provide skills brokerage services to employers as part of the wider Train to Gain Service in England. Three of these organisations operate in the London region.

### Vocational Training: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* companies and *(b)* organisations in Gloucestershire have signed the Skills Pledge. [170099]

**Mr. Lammy:** The Skills Pledge is a voluntary public commitment by the leadership of a company or organisation to support all its employees to develop their basic skills including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant valuable qualifications to at least level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs). If companies or organisations want to go beyond this and extend the commitment to help staff gain wider skills and additional qualifications as well that is welcome. The Skills Pledge is open to all employers in England.

As at November 2007, the available information indicated that there were nine companies or organisations in Gloucestershire which have signed the Skills Pledge. We do not collect separate information on companies or organisations.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ACP Countries: Economic Agreements

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on whether *(a)* the European Commission should provide an alternative to an Economic Partnership Agreement at the request of any African, Caribbean or Pacific country and *(b)* any alternative offered should provide no worse market access to the EU than is enjoyed under the Cotonou preferences. [170629]

**Mr. Thomas:** It remains the UK position, as set out in 2005, that the European Commission should be ready to provide an alternative to an economic partnership agreement (EPA) at the request of any African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) country and that any alternative offered should provide no worse market access to the EU than is currently enjoyed under Cotonou preferences. We are not aware of any ACP country that has requested a permanent alternative to an EPA.

There is currently a discussion with the ACP and EU member states on what market access ACP countries should receive for a temporary period, until they sign an EPA, if they have not done so before Cotonou expires on 31 December 2007. It remains the UK's position that we do not wish ACP countries to receive worse market access to the EU on 1 January 2008 than they currently receive under Cotonou preferences.

### Climate Change

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change as they affect his Departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [165577]

**Mr. Thomas:** The Department for International Development has helped developing countries prepare for the impacts of climate change through a £20 million contribution to UN funds for developing adaptation strategies and piloting adaptation projects. We have carried out climate risk assessments of our own programmes in China, India, Bangladesh and Kenya. We have also committed £5 million for climate information on Africa and £74 million for climate adaptation research to build knowledge on how best to respond to climate change impacts in developing countries.

We are also working closely with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and other government departments to jointly influence the international negotiations on climate change. This is to ensure that there is agreement in the post-2012 framework on international adaptation: what is needed, who will do what and how it will be financed. We are also working to ensure that adaptation will be sufficiently and effectively financed through the international system post-2012 by analysing needs and possible sources of finance, and developing pilot approaches for financing adaptation in countries susceptible to the effects of climate change.

### Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Keith Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the Government is co-operating with its international partners to meet the financial shortfall in the 2007 Humanitarian Action Plan for the Democratic Republic of Congo. [169907]

**Mr. Thomas:** The 2007 Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is costed at US$687 million which includes both emergency and early recovery activities. Donors have contributed US$437 million to the HAP so far. Around US$100 million of these contributions have been made through the DRC Humanitarian Pooled Fund, which provides the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator complete flexibility in targeting funds to meet the most critical humanitarian needs.

The UK is one of the largest humanitarian donors to the DRC. In 2007 the UK has provided some £35 million for humanitarian projects. This accounts for over 10 per cent. of the needs as expressed in the HAP. £30 million of our 2007 funding has been channelled through the Pooled Fund.

The establishment of the Pooled Fund has made it easier for other donors to contribute to the HAP and the numbers of donors contributing to the fund increased from six in 2006 to eight in 2007. DFID played a key role in establishing the Pooled Fund and encourages other donors to contribute to it. This is therefore one important way in which DFID has co-operated with its international partners to address the shortfall in humanitarian funding for DRC.

In addition, as a member of the Good Humanitarian Donor group in the DRC, DFID participates actively with other donors in regularly assessing humanitarian assistance priorities and how shortfalls in funding can be addressed.

### Developing Countries: Health Services

**Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made by the International Finance Facility on immunisation bonds; and if he will make a statement. [170016]

**Mr. Malik:** The International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm) has made impressive progress in its first year of implementation. In November 2006 IFFIm raised $1 billion from the international bond markets. Of the $1 billion raised, approximately $912 million will be disbursed by the end of 2007, through the GAVI Alliance (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation).

The GAVI Alliance is currently spending IFFIm funds in 43 of the poorest countries on immunisation activities to tackle vaccine-preventable diseases such as yellow fever, polio, measles, maternal and neonatal tetanus. IFFIm funds are also being spent on strengthening the health systems of these poor countries. Some of the early results achieved by the GAVI Alliance since 2006 through IFFIm's funding have been:

Immunising more than 100 million children under the age of five against polio.

Helping poor countries target 26 million women with immunisation against maternal and neonatal tetanus by 2007 and early 2008.

Yellow fever immunisation activities in 12 West African countries that will strengthen health systems and support vaccine security and affordability to prevent approximately 687,000 deaths between now and 2050.

### Economic Agreements

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect on regional integration of a country signing an economic partnership agreement outside their regional grouping either individually or as a small grouping. [170633]

**Mr. Thomas:** In regions where all countries are not able to sign an economic partnership agreement (EPA), the European Commission will consider agreeing a sub-regional EPA with the countries that are ready and would like to sign. With the deadline only a few weeks away and with some countries wanting to sign an EPA even though the full region is not ready, this is a pragmatic way forward to ensure as many countries as possible can benefit from duty free quota free access into the European Union markets from 1 January 2008. If a sub-regional EPA is signed, other countries in the region should be able to join the EPA as soon as they are ready. The effect on regional integration will vary depending on the extent of existing regional integration in the area and the scope of neighbouring agreements. The UK is considering the impact of these on a case by case basis.

### EU External Relations

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the recent statement by the General Affairs and External Relations Council of the EU that all parties should agree to pursue trade negotiations within agreed timeframes in outstanding areas. [170634]

**Mr. Thomas:** The UK's 2005 position paper on economic partnership agreements stated that investment, competition and Government procurement should be removed from the negotiations, unless specifically requested by an African, Caribbean or Pacific (ACP) regional negotiating group. The UK has strongly pushed for this with the Commission and among other European Union member states. At the General Affairs and External Relations Council we reached a compromise stating that the ACP should negotiate on these areas within an agreed timeframe. The conclusions do not state that the ACP is obliged to conclude negotiations on these areas.

### Sudan: Overseas Aid

**Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid was given to the Government of Sudan between November 2006 and November 2007. [171354]

**Mr. Thomas:** DFID provided £109.9 million of bilateral aid to Sudan in 2006-07. None of this aid was provided directly to the Sudanese Government and the majority was delivered as humanitarian assistance. Figures for 2007-08 will be available in June 2008. Data are not available on a November to November basis.

### Uganda: Overseas Aid

**Mr. Andrew Mitchell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what controls he has put in place to ensure that the allocation of £700 million aid to Uganda over the next 10 years is applied to *(a)* poverty reduction, *(b)* tackling corruption, *(c)* strengthening human rights and *(d)* other purposes for which it was intended. [170070]

**Mr. Douglas Alexander:** DFID signed a Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA) with Uganda on 22 November. This specifies that poverty reduction, tackling corruption and strengthening human rights are the key shared commitments on which our partnership is based. Under the provisions of the DPA there will be annual partnership talks to monitor and assess performance against these commitments.

The DPA sets aside an indicative allocation of £700 million over the next 10 years which is subject to the partnership commitments being met. In the event of a breach there are a range of provisions which include changing the way DFID delivers its programme as well as the possibility of reducing aid. The specific arrangements for disbursing and monitoring our

development assistance will follow the comprehensive guidelines for project and programme management that are set out in DFID's 'Blue Book' of rules, systems and procedures.

### UK Search and Rescue Advisory Group

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what guidelines have been developed by the UK Search and Rescue Advisory Group; and if he will place a copy of those guidelines in the Library. [170259]

**Mr. Malik:** The UK International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (UKISARG) has not developed specific guidelines. However, the Group has established common principles and standards to ensure that the member organisations are able to operate in a consistent, effective, professional and accountable manner. UKISARG member organisations must comply with UKISARG specific standards as well as the "Principles of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Response Programmes" and current International Search and Rescue Group (INSARAG) guidelines.

I am putting a copy of both of these documents in the Library of the House; alternatively they can be found via the following links:

Principles of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Response Programmes:

http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/conduct/code.asp

INSARAG Guidelines:

http://ochaonline.un.org/Coordination/FieldCoordinationSupportSection/INSARAG/tabid/1436/Default.aspx

## JUSTICE

### Climate Change

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 to adapt to the effects of climate change as they affect his Departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [165037]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice is awaiting the cross-Government Adaptation Policy Framework, which will set out our overall intentions in relation to adapting to the effects of climate change. This is expected to be published in the spring of 2008, and is in response to the Climate Change Bill. In the meantime, my Department has developed design guidance for new construction projects to reflect the need to have buildings capable of dealing with the major impacts of climate change in northern and western Europe. Measures are also being taken to achieve carbon reduction targets that will have the additional benefit of mitigating against certain effects of climate change. Finally, the likelihood of rising water levels is also taken into account in planning and acquisition of new sites.

### Crime: Victims

**Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the adequacy of funding of support services for women affected by sexual crime in Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement. [171942]

**Maria Eagle:** The Victims Fund was established to provide injections of funding for a wide range of services for victims and witnesses. It was not intended to provide core long-term resources or substitute for local funding. Grant recipients for previous years accepted their award under the agreement that it was for one year only. The resources from the Victims Fund for 2007-08 have already been allocated under the principles of open competition and are not subject to review.

There has been no reduction of funding from central Government for the specialist sexual violence and childhood abuse sector this year. Out of the £3 million package, £1.25 million has been allocated through the Victims Fund with the remainder used for funding the umbrella organisations, independent sexual violence advisors and sexual assault referral centres.

Peterborough Rape Crisis applied for a grant from the 2007-08 Victims Fund but was unsuccessful against other bidders. Each application was considered on its own merits and assessed against the published criteria. The Victims Fund received over two hundred applications and a separate assessment of the impact of each unsuccessful bid is not within the scope of the grant scheme. It was also open to the organisation to apply for funding where eligible, under the various other programmes.

The majority of funding is devolved to local areas and there is extensive work under way to try to improve the stability of local specialist sexual violence and childhood abuse services. This includes having a strong focus on sexual offences in the Making Communities Safer PSA to help influence local priorities.

### Crown Dependencies: Immigration

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what UK legislation governs immigration from European Union nations to the United Kingdom via the Channel Islands; and if he will make a statement. [171207]

**Mr. Wills:** Entry to the Channel Islands is governed by UK immigration legislation extended to the Islands. The Border and Immigration Agency does not operate a border control on passengers arriving from the Channel Islands as this falls within the arrangements set out for the common travel area. The objective of the common travel area (the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland) is that all the territories should be treated as a single unit for the purpose of travel within the area. Passengers arriving in the United Kingdom from the Channel Islands are, therefore, not normally subject to examination by an immigration officer. Passengers arriving from countries outside the common travel area, including other European Union states, are required to show their passports or identity cards, where appropriate, on each arrival.

### Crown Dependencies: Legislation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the time taken to promulgate Jersey legislation. [171203]

**Mr. Wills:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) is content that the existing arrangements for the promulgation of Jersey legislation provides for Her Majesty's Government to give effect to its constitutional responsibilities towards the Island. The time taken reflects the process that has to be undertaken which includes consultation with policy holding departments. The process provides the flexibility to process Jersey legislation on an urgent basis where there is a need to do so.

This process is kept under review.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the Department obtains the consent of the Crown Dependencies in circumstances where matters within the United Kingdom have legal implications for them. [171205]

**Mr. Wills:** UK legislation does not normally extend to the Crown Dependencies and is not extended to them without their consent. Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man may, however, request that UK legislation is extended to them and this can then be done through an Order in Council.

Treaties and international agreements are extended to the Crown Dependencies with their consent.

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review current legislation or administrative practices that directly effect the Crown Dependencies with a view to improving police and criminal judicial co-operation between Crown Dependencies and European Union member states. [171206]

**Mr. Wills:** The Crown Dependencies are autonomous self-governing parliamentary democracies with their own legislatures. Legislation and administrative practices that affect Crown Dependencies are a matter for their respective governments. The governments of the UK and the Crown Dependencies routinely consider shared interests and approaches to improving police and criminal judicial co-operation not just between the UK and the Crown Dependencies but with other jurisdictions, including EU member states.

### Crown Dependencies: Prerogative Remedies

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recourse the Government has had to prerogative powers in respect of *(a)* the Channel Islands and *(b)* the Isle of Man, in the last 12 months. [171204]

**Mr. Wills:** The prerogative powers are used all the time in respect of the Crown Dependencies, most usually in the granting of Royal Assent for insular legislation and in the making of appointments of Crown Officers. In the past 12 months Royal Assent has been given to 56 Laws for the Channel Islands and eight for the Isle of Man. There has been one new appointment which is that of the new Solicitor-General for Jersey which is still under way.

### Crown Dependencies: Prisons

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what responsibility his Department has with regard to the number of available prison spaces in *(a)* the Isle of Man and *(b)* the Channel Islands. [171212]

**Mr. Wills:** The Crown Dependencies, the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey and the Isle of Man, are not part of the UK but are self-governing dependencies of the Crown.

The number of prison spaces in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands is a matter for the authorities in the islands.

### Crown Dependencies: Public Appointments

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government has any plans to make new Crown appointments on any of the Channel Islands. [171211]

**Mr. Wills:** The Ministry of Justice is currently taking forward the appointment of the new Solicitor-General of Jersey. There are no other new Crown Appointments scheduled for the immediate future. The timing of the appointment of the majority of Crown Officers in the Crown Dependencies is determined by when their Warrants or Letters Patent expire, or by their retirement from office.

### Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which companies are under contract to his Department to provide mail services. [170171]

**Maria Eagle:** The following companies are under contract to the Ministry of Justice to provide mail services:

DX Services Limited

TNT

Amtrak Express Parcels Limited

### Departmental Aviation

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months. [171244]

**Bridget Prentice:** It is not possible to list the costs spent on *(a)* business class and *(b)* first class air travel by the Department in the last 12 months as the

expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members. The Cabinet Office has recently published the annual list of Cabinet Ministers overseas travel for 2006-07.

All official travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code", a copy of which is also available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

### Departmental Travel

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department and its predecessor on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171257]

**Bridget Prentice:** It is not possible to list the costs spent on first class train tickets by the Department in the last 12 months as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts and may be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members. All official travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code", a copy of which is also available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

### Governance of Britain Document

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place copies of responses to "The Governance of Britain" document in the Library. [171185]

**Mr. Wills:** "The Governance of Britain" Green Paper was not a consultation document. However, a number of consultations concerning specific proposals within the Green Paper have since been published.

There are three public consultations that are currently continuing 'Managing Protest Around Parliament' (CM 7235); 'War Powers and Treaties: Limiting Executive Powers' (CM 7239); and 'Judicial Appointments' (CM 7210). They will all close on 17 January 2008.

A consultation on 'Altering the current guidance on flying the Union Flag from UK Government buildings' closed on 9 November and a consultation on the 'Role of the Attorney General' (CM 7192) closed on 30 November.

Responses to all of these consultations will be published in line with Cabinet Office guidelines and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

### Hollesley Bay Prison: Prisoners Escape

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners absconded from HM Prison Hollesley Bay in each of the last six years. [169091]

**Maria Eagle:** The number of absconds from HMP Hollesley Bay in each of the last six years is as follows:

| | *Number of absconds* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 14 |
| 2003-04 | 36 |
| 2004-05 | 32 |
| 2005-06 | 16 |
| 2006-07 | 21 |
| 2007-08 (to end October)[1] | 10 |

[1] Figures recorded for 2007-08 are provisional and subject to change.

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice of what crimes those prisoners who have absconded from HM Prison Hollesley Bay in the last six years had been convicted. [169093]

**Maria Eagle:** Statistics are not available for the year 2002-03, however the main index offences for those who absconded from Hollesley Bay in each of the last five years up to end September 2007 are as follows:

| *Crime type* | *2003-04* | *2004-05* | *2005-06* | *2006-07* | *2007-08* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arson | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Breach of Licence | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Burglary | 8 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 28 |
| Deception | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Disorderly conduct | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Drug offences | 4 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 19 |
| Handling stolen goods | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Immigration offences | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Manslaughter | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Motoring offences | 0 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| Offensive weapon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Robbery | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 24 |
| Theft | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Threatening behaviour | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Threats to kill | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Violence against the person | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 11 |
| Not recorded | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Total | 36 | 32 | 16 | 21 | 10 | 115 |

**Mr. Gummer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who have absconded from HM Prison Hollesley Bay in the last six years remain at large. [169094]

**Maria Eagle:** Statistics are not available for the year 2002-03, however the information held by the establishment of those for whom there is no record of recapture is as follows.

| | *Absconds remaining at large.* |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | n/a |
| 2003-04 | 4 |
| 2004-05 | 5 |
| 2005-06 | 3 |
| 2006-07 | 0 |
| 2007-08[1, 2] | 2 |

[1] To end September.
[2] Figures recorded for 2007-08 are provisional and subject to change.

## Passports: Fraud

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons were convicted of false passport or false identity document offences in each of the last two years; and of those how many and what percentage have been given custodial sentences. [170469]

**Maria Eagle:** The information requested covering selected offences for the years 2005 and 2006 is provided in the following table.

The data provided do not cover all prosecutions for possession or production of false identity documents as some defendants found guilty of these offences can be prosecuted under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 or the Theft Acts 1968 and 1978. Data on prosecutions for these offences have not been provided as data on prosecutions brought under these Acts cannot separately identify whether false documents were involved in the crimes committed.

A percentage cannot be provided due to the method of recording.

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts, sentenced and of those sentenced, the number sentenced to immediate custody for offences related to false passports and related documents, England and Wales 2005 and 2006[1, 2, 3]*

| *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *Year* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Sentenced* | *Of which: Immediate custody* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Identity Cards Act 2006 | With intent knowingly possessing or falsely or improperly obtaining another's ID document | 2006 | 587 | 437 | 484 | 462 |
| Identity Cards Act 2006 | With intent making, possessing or having under control apparatus or article or material designed or adapted for making false ID cards | 2006 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 9 |
| Identity Cards Act 2006 | Possessing or controlling a false or improperly obtained ID card or which relates to another or apparatus etc. for making false ID cards | 2006 | 133 | 81 | 55 | 46 |
| Immigration Act 1971 S.26A(3)(a), (b), (d), (e), (f) and (g) and (5) as added by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 S.148 | Registration Card (making, using or attempting to use a false registration card; altering or attempting to use a registration card; making article designed to be used in making false registration card or altering card) | 2005 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | | 2006 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 5 |
| Immigration Act 1971 S.26A (3) (c) and (h) and (6) as added by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 S.148 | Registration Card (having false registration card in possession; having article within para. (f) or (g) in possession without reasonable excuse) | 2005 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| | | 2006 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| Being unable to produce an immigration document at a leave or asylum interview in respect of himself | Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 S.2(1)(9) | 2005 | 473 | 428 | 385 | 378 |
| | | 2006 | 490 | 499 | 533 | 525 |
| Being unable to produce an immigration document at a leave or asylum interview in respect of a dependent child | Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 S.2(2)(9) | 2005 | 14 | 22 | 32 | 31 |
| | | 2006 | 14 | 14 | 21 | 20 |
| Non citizen entering UK without leave | Immigration Act 1971 section 24 (1) (a) | 2005 | 43 | 33 | 24 | 22 |
| | | 2006 | 75 | 63 | 38 | 31 |

*Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts, sentenced and of those sentenced, the number sentenced to immediate custody for offences related to false passports and related documents, England and Wales 2005 and 2006*[1, 2, 3]

| *Offence description* | *Principal statute* | *Year* | *Proceeded against* | *Found guilty* | *Sentenced* | *Of which: Immediate custody* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Having possession or any passport, certificate of entitlement, entry clearance, work permit or other document made under or for the purpose of the Immigration Act 1971 which is known or is reasonably believed to be false | Immigration Act 1971 section 26 (1) (d) | 2005 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| | | 2006 | 12 | 17 | 16 | 14 |

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The found guilty column can exceed the number proceeded against and the number sentenced can exceed both those proceeded against and found guilty when a proceeding took place in a different year to conviction or sentencing, or when a defendant is found guilty for a different offence to the one for which proceedings were originally brought.

## Prisoners

**Mr. Paul Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has had discussions with Ofcom on the security implications of the radio broadcast of messages aimed at prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [171323]

**Mr. Hanson:** No. The granting of licences to radio stations, and the conditions of those licences, are matters for Ofcom, though official level contacts may be made in relation to specific broadcasts if concerns are raised.

## Prisoners Release

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released on End of Custody Licence who did not fit the criteria for release. [169629]

**Mr. Hanson:** Between 29 June 2007 and 31 October 2007 11,100 prisoners have been released under End of Custody Licence (ECL). Of this total NOMS has identified six prisoners released who did not meet the eligibility criteria and were therefore released in error. A further two cases have been identified where the prisoners met the eligibility criteria but were released on ECL earlier than they should have been.

Five of the eight errors were reported in the ECL monthly reports published on the Ministry of Justice website. Three errors were confirmed after the ECL report was published on 30 November 2007. They will be included in the report to be published at the end of December.

We are committed to ensuring that as few errors occur as possible and we will keep processes under review to minimise these.

## Prisoners' Release

**Lynne Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department will *(a)* resume work on the review of Prison Service Order 6300 and the arrangements governing Childcare Resettlement Licence and *(b)* consult organisations acting on behalf of prisoners on this policy; and if he will make a statement. [171103]

**Mr. Hanson:** A review of Prison Service Order 6300 Release on Temporary Licence began in the spring of 2007. An internal survey of women's prisons was conducted but further progress, including consultation with external stakeholders, has been halted due to other pressing priorities.

Work will commence again when resources permit and relevant stakeholders, including organisations acting on behalf of prisoners, will be consulted to ensure the review balances the needs of prisoners and their families as well as public confidence in the administration of justice.

## Prisoners: Females

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women in prisons in England and Wales are held *(a)* more than 50 miles and *(b)* more than 100 miles from the sentencing court. [172123]

**Mr. Hanson:** Distance from court area for sentenced women prisoners is set out in the following table:

| *Distance* | *Women prisoners*[1] |
|---|---|
| Up to 50 miles | 1,639 |
| 50 to 100 miles | 830 |
| Over 100 miles | 769 |

[1] As at 19 September 2007.

159 women prisoners had no recorded court or home address.

Information on sentencing court addresses is not available for every prisoner and where not available home area addresses have been used as a proxy.

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* certified normal accommodation and *(b)* total capacity available to house women prisoners was in each year since 1997. [172124]

**Mr. Hanson:** The information requested is set out in the following table:

| | *Certified normal accommodation* | *Operational capacity* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 2,688 | 2,772 |
| 1998 | 3,091 | 3,269 |
| 1999 | 3,240 | 3,496 |
| 2000 | 3,524 | 3,763 |
| 2001 | 3,713 | 3,964 |
| 2002 | 4,493 | 4,828 |
| 2003 | 4,611 | 4,924 |
| 2004 | 4,743 | 5,052 |
| 2005 | 4,996 | 5,294 |
| 2006 | 4,759 | 4,996 |
| 2007 | 4,676 | 4,876 |

Certified normal accommodation is the uncrowded capacity of the women's prison estate and operational capacity is the total number of places in the women's estate.

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions women prisoners have been held in police or court cells over the last 12 months. [172125]

**Mr. Hanson:** Women prisoners are held in police cells, under Operation Safeguard, only in exceptional circumstances. This has occurred on 21 occasions in the last 12 months (an occasion equates to one prisoner on one night).

Prisoners are also sometimes held overnight in police cells as "lockouts". A lockout is an operational measure normally only used when the designated prison's reception will be closed before the prisoner's arrival time. Women prisoners have been held in police cells as "lockouts" on 33 occasions in the last 12 months.

No women prisoners have to date been held in court cells.

**Prisoners: Mental Health**

**Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offenders' institutions receive funding for community mental health and reach teams to provide services for prisoners with severe mental health problems. [171983]

**Maria Eagle:** Since April 2006, commissioning responsibility for prison health services has been fully devolved to the national health service.

Funding for health services, including mental health in-reach, is therefore allocated to those primary care trusts which contain prisons in their areas.

In total, 102 mental health in-reach teams operate within prisons, including young offenders institutions, and their services are available across the entire prison estate. Since 2005-06, £20 million has been invested in these services each year.

**Prisons: Finance**

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice from what budget the funding for *(a)* the 8,000 new prison places announced by the previous Secretary of State for the Home Department and *(b)* the 1,500 new prison places announced by the previous Lord Chancellor will be drawn. [171184]

**Mr. Hanson:** The new prison places will be funded from the capital and resource budgets (as appropriate) of the National Offender Management Service, within the Ministry of Justice overall allocations. The 8,000 places are due to be delivered by 2012 and as such some of the funding falls after the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07) period. 500 of the 1,500 places fall within the CSR07 period. The optimum timing and composition of the further 1,000 places will be considered in the light of the Carter report.

**Prisons: Mother and Baby Units**

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women were not allocated places in mother and baby units in prisons in England and Wales due to *(a)* lack of space and *(b)* other reasons in each year for which data is available. [172121]

**Mr. Hanson:** From 1 December 2006 (the earliest date for which information is available) until 30 November 2007 no women were refused a place due to lack of space. The criteria for admission to a mother and baby unit focus on the best interests of the child. 29 applications for places were refused during the period because the criteria were not met.

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many places there are in mother and baby units in prisons in England and Wales. [172122]

**Mr. Hanson:** The current national capacity is 75 places (including the nine places that will become available once the temporarily closed unit at HMP/YOI New Hall re-opens).

**Prisons: Television**

**Nick Herbert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the *(a)* licence, *(b)* equipment and *(c)* running costs of personal televisions in prisoner cells are met; by whom; how the costs arising from digital switchover will be allocated; and if he will make a statement. [171183]

**Maria Eagle:** The equipment and running costs (excluding electricity) of prisoners' in-cell television is met from the weekly charge levied on prisoners for the rental of a television from the Prison Service.

The switchover of the prison estate in readiness for the switch from analogue to digital television began in 2005 and is expected to be completed in 2012. It is intended that the cost of digital switchover in the

prison estate will be met primarily from the revenue generated by the weekly charge levied on prisoners for the rental of televisions from the Prison Service.

Television licences are not required because of Crown exemption.

### Speed Limits: Cameras

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of speed cameras found to be operating illegally in each of the last 10 years; and how many fines, and of what amount, were issued through the use of these illegal cameras. [171121]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

The operation of speed cameras is an operational matter for the police and any challenge to their operation in a particular case would be for the courts. Information on fines imposed for offences detected by camera does not include details of the cameras involved in individual cases.

### Youth Justice Board: Finance

**Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will provide additional funding for the Youth Justice Board to increase the staff complement at Gladstone House Young Offender Institution. [169774]

**Beverley Hughes:** I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg) on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1104W.

## LEADER OF THE HOUSE

### Christmas

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Leader of the House how much her Office has spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171429]

**Helen Goodman:** As a result of the machinery of government change in transferring the Leader of the House office from the Privy Council office to the Cabinet Office, the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

### Members: Allowances

**Mr. Maude:** To ask the Leader of the House (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 538W, on Members: allowances, what is the maximum amount in cash terms in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 that may be spent on communication allowance expenditure, assuming the maximum amount is transferred from staffing allowance and incidental expenses provision; [171029]

(2) how much was allocated for 2007-08 to the communications allowance; [171472]

(3) what the aggregate expenditure on allowances for hon. Members was in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [171473]

**Helen Goodman:** The information is as follows:

1. I refer the hon. Member to the rules in the Green Book which allow Members some flexibilities to transfer money between allowances to meet the needs of their parliamentary and constituency work. The amounts available for parliamentary allowances for 2008-09 are not yet available.

2. Parliamentary allowances expenditure is limited only to the extent of the maximum rate payable for each allowance. Each Member has access to the communications allowance set at £10,000 in 2007-08, which means a maximum possible spend across all members of £6.46 million in the year.

3. The combined expenditure for Members' allowances (excluding travel costs and auxiliary expenditure) reported in the House of Commons Members Resource Accounts for 2006-07 (HC832) was £77.8 million. In 1996-97 the figure was £36.8 million. The allowance system changed significantly in July 2001 on the recommendation of the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) when new allowances were introduced.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170228]

**Mr. Woodward:** A copy of the Northern Ireland Office, corporate identity guidelines for staff has been placed in the Library. Over and above the initial cost of £44,725 there are no annual costs associated with producing or complying with the guidelines.

### Elderly: Abuse

**Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many elderly persons were assaulted in their homes in each year since 1998 in Northern Ireland; and how many persons were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of such assaults in each year. [168492]

**Paul Goggins:** The number of elderly persons assaulted in their homes in Northern Ireland for each year since 2002 is set out in the following table.

The table also sets out the number of non sanction clearances, in which no further action was taken by the police, and the number of offences cleared by means of a charge or summons.

As the exact location of assault and age of victim was not recorded prior to 2002 I am not able to supply figures from 1998 to 2002.

Figures for convictions do not record details of victims. Therefore it is not possible to supply information on the number of convictions for such assaults in each year.

| | Recorded | Non sanction clearances | Cleared by means of charge/ summons |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 111 | 81 | 13 |
| 2003-04 | 158 | 130 | 14 |
| 2004-05 | 161 | 101 | 10 |
| 2005-06 | 167 | 122 | 20 |
| 2006-07 | 179 | 62 | 28 |

Fear of crime, particularly among older people, vulnerable people, victims and children is one of the nine key issues of the Northern Ireland Community Safety strategy. One of the proposed actions flowing from this theme was to produce a draft strategy for the safety of older people. The Community Safety Unit (CSU) launched the document 'Proposals for the Safety of Older People' for consultation on 14 June 2007 and responses are currently being evaluated.

### Irish language

**Mark Durkan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions his Department has had with Ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive on an Irish Language Act; and how the Government propose to meet their undertaking to work with the Northern Ireland Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language. [164023]

**Paul Goggins:** My Department has had no discussions on an Irish Language Act with Ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive.

Section 15 of the Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) Act 2006 places a duty on the Northern Ireland Executive to adopt a strategy setting out how it proposes to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language. The Government stand ready to support the Executive's efforts in implementing this strategy, once it has been developed.

### Prisoners Release

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Northern Ireland prisoners were released under the end of custody licence scheme in each month since its introduction. [170461]

**Paul Goggins:** The Prison Service does not operate an end of custody licence (ECL) scheme in Northern Ireland. While prisoners transferred from Northern Ireland to serve their sentences in England and Wales may be released on ECL if they meet the eligibility criteria, I understand that none have since its introduction earlier this year.

### Prisoners: Foreigners

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of prisoners in Northern Ireland are foreign nationals, broken down by nationality. [170462]

**Paul Goggins:** As of 3 December 2007, the total prisoner population in Northern Ireland prisons was 1,467. Of these 71 were foreign national prisoners which equates to 4.8 per cent.

The following table provides a breakdown of all foreign national prisoners by nationality.

| Nationality | Number |
|---|---|
| Lithuanian | 11 |
| Polish | 9 |
| Chinese | 5 |
| Nigerian | 5 |
| Portuguese | 6 |
| Romanian | 4 |
| Brazilian | 3 |
| Canadian | 1 |
| German | 2 |
| Latvian | 3 |
| Liberian | 2 |
| South African | 2 |
| Zimbabwean | 2 |
| Algerian | 1 |
| American | 1 |
| Argentinean | 1 |
| Australian | 1 |
| Belgian | 1 |
| Danish | 2 |
| Dutch | 1 |
| French | 1 |
| Ghanaian | 1 |
| Moroccan | 1 |
| Rwandan | 1 |
| Sierra Leonean | 1 |
| Slovakian | 1 |
| Slovenian | 1 |
| Ugandan | 1 |

### Prisons: Education

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what additional educational *(a)* facilities and *(b)* resources are to be made available in Northern Ireland prisons on the introduction of provisions on dangerousness and dangerous offenders. [170457]

**Paul Goggins:** The proposals contained within the draft Criminal Justice Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 introduce new sentencing options for dangerous violent and sexual offenders; these offenders will only be released when the independent Parole Commissioners consider it is safe to do so. A strategic joint steering group has been established to focus specifically on offender behavioural programmes for high risk offenders in relation to public protection and resettlement. In addition to existing expenditure in this area, we plan to invest a further £4.7million over the next three financial years to implement the strategy. This will include investment in education and psychology services to recruit and train new staff to undertake risk assessments, provide programmes and work directly with dangerous offenders to reduce their risk, and to put the necessary structures in place to manage the process.

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on prisoner education at each facility in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [170466]

**Paul Goggins:** The expenditure by the Northern Ireland Prison Service to provide education in each of the last full five financial years is shown in the following table.

£000

| | Maghaberry | Magilligan | Hydebank Wood YOC |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 668 | 257 | 237 |
| 2003-04 | 655 | 275 | 251 |
| 2004-05 | 728 | 314 | 313 |
| 2005-06 | 850 | 310 | 285 |
| 2006-07 | 943 | 382 | 401 |

In addition to the above expenditure, some courses have been funded by the Department of Education and Learning at HMP Magilligan, and provided by local colleges. The cost of these courses has not been charged to the Prison Service.

## SCOTLAND

### Departmental Staff

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of posts in his Department have been recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172260]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office does not categorise staff as back office or frontline; staff numbers are shown in the office's annual report, a copy of which is in the House Library.

### Departmental Marketing

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines issued to staff maintaining his Department's corporate identity; and what the estimated annual cost is of *(a)* producing and *(b)* complying with such guidelines. [170227]

**David Cairns:** The Scotland Office does not have a corporate identity policy and therefore guidelines have not been produced.

## TRANSPORT

### Biofuels

**Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the primary sources are of bio-fuels; and what percentage of fuels was sourced from each in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [171182]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Biofuels are currently produced from a wide range of sources, including rapeseed oil, palm oil, soya oil, wheat, sugar beet, and sugar cane. In the longer term there is the potential that biofuels may be produced from other crops and other forms of biomass, including agricultural and forestry residues and the biodegradable fraction of municipal waste. The Department does not have a detailed breakdown of the percentage of UK biofuels that come from these different sources.

Once the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) comes into effect in April 2008, transport fuel suppliers will be required to report on matters such as the feedstock from which their biofuels were produced and its country of origin. The Renewable Fuels Agency will be required to report regularly to Parliament on these matters.

### Bus Services: Concessions

**Graham Stringer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to abolish the Bus Service Operators Grant; and if she will make a statement. [171672]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 5 December 2007]:* As stated in our bus policy document "Putting Passengers First" published last December we are considering with stakeholders whether changes to bus subsidies, including Bus Service Operators Grant, would increase their contribution to our objectives on the environment, congestion and accessibility. This work is ongoing and no decisions have yet been taken. We hope to make announcements on any changes next spring.

### Cars

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of London households which are expected to buy a new car in the next 10 years, broken down by socio-economic group. [169817]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department's National Car Ownership Model produces forecasts of household car ownership. This does not provide a breakdown by traditional socio-economic grouping.

The model does not forecast the purchasing of new cars by households explicitly, but does provide changes in car stock and households by the number of cars owned.

The expected change in the number of households in Greater London by car ownership and total car stock from 2007-17 is as follows:

| | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 0 car households | 49,136 | +4 |
| 1 car households | 214,807 | +15 |
| 2 car households | 71,668 | +14 |
| 3+ car households | 32,607 | +26 |
| Total households | 368,218 | +12 |
| Total cars | 462,485 | +16 |

## Climate Change

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change as they affect her Departmental responsibilities; and if she will make a statement. [165574]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport (DfT) has contributed to the Climate Change Bill, recently introduced into Parliament, and the cross-Government Adaptation Policy Framework (APF), which is expected to be published in spring 2008.

The Climate Change Bill will set out a requirement for the Government to produce the first UK risk assessment on climate change within three years. Following this, the Government will update the risk report and programme on a five-yearly basis, with one informing the other.

The Adaptation Policy Framework will set out Government's overall intentions in relation to adapting to the effects of climate change. Following the APF, the Government's adaptation action plan will be published, which will include specific adaptation targets. As part of the APF, the DFT are developing a Transport Adaptation Strategy, which will offer strategic guidance to DFT stakeholders in terms of risk analysis and management.

In response to the Government's 2003 White Paper "The Future of Air Transport", UK airport operators have produced comprehensive master plans that rigorously evaluate the impacts of future airport development proposals, including the impacts of air travel on climate change.

As well as funding industry research into climate adaptation through the Rail Safety and Standards Board, the DFT has established a cross-rail industry forum to identify the challenges that climate change poses to the railway.

The DFT confirmed in the recent rail White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" (July 2007) that the specification of future rolling stock, starting with the Intercity Express train, will require suppliers to take account of climate adaptation issues in their designs. Network Rail is already designing increased resilience into its renewals work.

The Department has recently completed some research on behalf of the UK Roads Board on adapting materials and techniques in highway works to the changing climate. This will be published as a guide for local authority highway engineers.

The Highways Agency (HA) will deliver a strategy report on climate change adaptation by the end of March 2008, detailing how it can continue to provide a robust network in light of predicted UK climate change effects. The HA has already written two reports in conjunction with the Met Office, cross-referencing the weather-related parameters contained in their standards, specifications and operating procedures against predicted future UK climate change.

## Cycling: Children

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she is considering introducing measures to encourage cycling by children. [164628]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Department is already actively encouraging children to cycle.

We have spent £16.2 million over the last two and a half years on providing safe routes from residential areas to over 500 schools and have provided funding for the 'Bike IT' scheme which works with schools to increase the number of young people cycling.

We have launched Bikeability—the new training scheme which gives children (and adults) the skills and confidence to deal with current traffic conditions and are investing £1.67 million in training approx 47,000 year 6 children to Bikeability level 2 this year. This is in addition to the investment in cycle training local authorities are already making. And more funding will be available next year.

Many of the improvements local authorities are making to local cycling infrastructure and cycle networks can also encourage young people to cycle. One of the cycle demonstration towns we are funding, Derby, has a specific focus on targeting improvements to encourage those under 25 to cycle.

## Delivery Services

**Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies are under contract to her Department to provide mail services. [170175]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** Mail services are provided to the Department for Transport by Royal Mail, City Link Post, TNT Post UK Ltd. and DHL Global Mail (UK) Ltd.

## Design

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff are tasked with assisting the ministerial design champion in his duties as such, broken down by grade. [164641]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Aesthetic considerations for Highways Agency structures and heritage issues are embedded within the project design procedures. Currently no members of the Highways Agency are dedicated to supporting my duties as the ministerial design champion, although a pay band eight structures engineer is the focal point for structural design aesthetics and a pay band seven environmentalist is the focal point for heritage issues.

## Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Complaints

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many customer complaints the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency received in the last 12 months, broken down by type of complaint received. [164644]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) manages more than 40 million driver and 32 million vehicle records. In financial year 2006-07 DVLA received a total of 6,668 complaint cases.

This can be broken down into:

| | *Number* |
|---|---|
| Drivers Complaints | 958 |
| Vehicles Complaints | 4671 |
| General Complaints | 1,039 |

### Electric Vehicles

**Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to encourage local authorities and businesses to install charging points for electric vehicles. [171777]

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her strategy is for encouraging *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* businesses to develop a comprehensive infrastructure network of charging points for electric vehicles. [172576]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Department for Transport provides grants through the Energy Saving Trust to local authorities and businesses in England for up to 50 per cent. of the cost of installation of electric vehicle charging points which are for public use.

### Euston Station

**Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will require Network Rail to make arrangements to help commuters with luggage, the elderly and disabled to access the underground from the concourse of Euston station while the escalators are being refurbished; if she will assess the compliance of the works with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 2005; whether her Department was consulted over the works; if she will take steps to monitor the compliance of future works by Network Rail with the DDA; and if she will make it her policy to require Network Rail to *(a)* provide and *(b)* advertise assistance to vulnerable groups when such works take place. [172001]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** This is an operational matter for Network Rail. I understand, however, that they are working with London Underground to ensure that passengers are re-directed to the most appropriate alternative route until the works are completed at the end of this month.

Any work carried out at stations must comply with the standards in "Train and Station Services for Disabled People: A Code of Practice (2002)". The Department would only expect to be consulted if proposed works did not meet these standards. Network Rail also has a duty under part 3 of the DDA 1995 to make reasonable adjustments to allow access to their goods and services. They are responding to this duty.

As a condition of their licence to operate, Network Rail are required to publish a Disabled Persons' Protection Policy, approved by the department, setting out the service level they commit to provide to people with reduced mobility, when accessing their stations.

### Fixed Penalties: Appeals

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many recorded challenges against penalty charge notices there were in each local authority area in each of the last 12 months; and how many of these were successful. [164633]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The Government do not hold this information.

### Galileo

**Adam Price:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what Government resources have been used in support of Cardiff's bid to be the permanent home of the EU Galileo Supervisory Authority; and when the Government next expects an opportunity to present its case. [170783]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The Government, in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government, put forward the Cardiff bid to host the EU GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA) in 2005. At the end of 2007, the Finnish presidency reviewed the bids from 11 member states which had declared an interest, but no decision was proposed.

After the negotiations for a public private partnership to take forward Galileo collapsed earlier this year, the Commission put forward proposals for changing the governance of the programme. These will require, among other things, amendments to the EU regulation which set up the GSA. The question of its location is not likely to be considered until the GSA and other regulations have been agreed, some time in 2008.

The Department for Transport, in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government, the Wales Office, the FCO and other Departments, has taken the lead in promoting the Cardiff bid, mainly through lobbying of other member states. It would not be possible to separate out, or cost, the amount of time spent by officials in promoting Cardiff from the efforts in promoting the Government's objective for Galileo more generally.

### Motor Vehicles: Crime

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of her Department's budget is spent on combating vehicle crime. [164619]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The lead responsibility for combating vehicle crime rests with the Home Office. Many of the activities of DfT and its agencies also help to tackle vehicle crime. Among the key achievements in 2006-07 were: the introduction of theft-resistant number plates to help combat car cloning and car ID theft; and an increase in wheel clamping activities to tackle vehicle excise duty evasion. It is not possible to quantify the precise proportion of expenditure.

### Public Transport: Innovation

**Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential environmental effects of Government encouragement of the use on upright electric personal transporter. [171111]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** None. However, if, as I understand, their use is likely to be as an alternative to walking or cycling then their potential to reduce greenhouse gases and local pollution is minimal.

There are no plans to amend legislation to permit Segway use on public roads or cycle/pedestrian facilities in Great Britain, but the Department for Transport has invited the company to share the results of any research into Segway use elsewhere.

### Railways: Exhaust Emissions

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the average volume of carbon dioxide emissions per passenger per kilometre for travel by rail. [168688]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Department estimates that travel by rail in 2005-06 resulted in an average of 60 g of carbon dioxide emissions per passenger kilometre. A recent report by the Association of Train Operating Companies provides a slightly lower figure for 2006-07 of 58 g per passenger kilometre, reflecting both increased passenger numbers and the wider use of regenerative braking on electric trains.

### Railways: Tickets

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date the Government expects nationwide coverage for the use of smartcards on the national rail network to be reached. [168693]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The recently let franchises—South Western, West Midlands, East Midlands and Intercity East Coast have a commitment to start the roll-out of smartcard ticketing by 2010, with the New Cross Country Franchise accepting smartcard tickets issued by other operators. The rail strategy White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", published this summer and available in the Library of the House, contains more detail of the Government's intention to work with the rail industry to roll-out ITSO smartcards more widely across the network by the end of 2014.

### Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation

**Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that the renewable transport fuels obligation will help to lower carbon dioxide emissions. [170451]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), which will come into effect in April 2008, is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by requiring transport fuel suppliers to ensure that an increasing percentage of their total road transport fuel sales is made up of biofuels. The amount of greenhouse gas emissions saved by different biofuels varies considerably and depends on a wide range of factors including the amount of energy used in the cultivation, processing and transportation of the crop. The RTFO will include a reporting mechanism to encourage transport fuel suppliers to source those biofuels which deliver high levels of carbon savings in a sustainable way, and to allow the policy's greenhouse gas savings to be accurately quantified. The Government estimate that by 2010 the RTFO could save between 2.6 and 3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum.

From April 2010 the Government aim to reward biofuels under the RTFO according to their carbon savings in order to provide greater certainty as to the precise carbon savings delivered by the scheme. Further details of how this might be done are set out in a policy paper which is available via the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/rtfo/secrtfostake/informalpolicypaper

Such a change would require a number of changes to the existing RTFO legislation, which would be subject to public consultation.

### Road Traffic: Schools

**Mrs. Villiers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of her officials are working on proposals to reduce the traffic generated by the school run. [164624]

**Ms Rosie Winterton:** The development of proposals to reduce the traffic generated by the school run does not fall into neat boxes that enable us to identify exactly how many officials are engaged on this. There are four officials who do work on reducing car use for journeys to and from school, mainly through the joint DfT/DCSF 'Travelling to School' project, in the Department's sustainable travel initiatives team. Additional work to promote and facilitate walking and cycling to school is done by the six officials working in the Department's walking and cycling team and by Cycling England, an independent body set up by the Department in 2005 to promote cycling. In addition, officials in several other teams across the Department work on the development of proposals that have a direct impact on parents' decisions as to whether or not to let their children travel to and from school by non-car modes. They include people engaged in road safety, traffic management, buses, and local and regional transport policy.

In addition, and as part of their joint 'Travelling to School' project, DfT and DCSF are providing sufficient funding for local authorities to employ around 250 school travel advisers who work with schools to help them develop and implement school travel plans, which are seen as the key strategies for reducing car use for journeys to and from school. The school travel advisers are supported by a network of 11 regional school travel advisers.

### Roads: Gloucestershire

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the likely effect of *(a)* the new settlement planned at Hunts Grove and *(b)* the new waste facility planned for Javelin Park on traffic flows on (i) Junction 12 on the M5 and (ii) the B4008. [171005]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** The Highways Agency has assessed the likely impact of the proposed Hunts Grove development and estimates that it will increase traffic flows at M5 Junction 12 by 612 and 547 vehicle movements in the morning and afternoon peak hours respectively. The estimated increase in traffic flows on

the B4008 is assessed to be an extra 157 and 129 vehicle movements in the morning and afternoon peak hours respectively.

A package of appropriate improvement works to mitigate the effects of the development on Junction 12 has been agreed in principle between the Highways Agency, Gloucestershire county council and the developers. Mitigation works to improve the A38/ B4008 Cross Keys Junction have also been agreed in principle between the county and developers.

As soon as a transport assessment is received for the proposed new waste facility planned for Javelin Park then an assessment of the impact on Junction 12 of the M5 and the B4008 can be undertaken.

### Severn Bridge: Tolls

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to amend Regulation 5 of the Severn Bridges Act 1992 to allow the introduction of facilities to pay by card and online; and if she will make a statement. [169320]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given today to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones). (UIN 168704).

### Severn Crossings

**Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has to introduce facilities for the payment of tolls on the Severn crossings by *(a)* debit and *(b)* credit cards. [168704]

**Ms Rosie Winterton** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* We recognise the potential benefits of a more flexible payment system for the Severn crossings. Therefore, the Government are exploring the legal and commercial issues raised by credit and debit card payments through a working group involving Department for Transport officials and Severn River Crossings plc.

### Speed Limits: Cameras

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will compensate drivers who have been erroneously *(a)* fined and *(b)* charged with speeding on the evidence of illegally operating speed cameras. [171172]

**Maria Eagle:** I have been asked to reply.

Whether or not a person is properly convicted is a matter for the courts. If a person believes his/her conviction should not stand, they should consider whether to appeal to the appropriate appellate court. There is a compensation scheme in place for those who appeal successfully, but this only applies in certain very narrowly-defined circumstances.

Under section 133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) will pay compensation where an applicant has a criminal conviction quashed at an out of time appeal on the basis of a new or newly discovered fact that shows beyond reasonable doubt that there has been a miscarriage of justice, unless the non-disclosure of the unknown fact was wholly or partly attributable to the convicted person. Every application is considered on its merits.

The Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor would decide whether an applicant is eligible for compensation and if he approved compensation the independent assessor would decide on the amount of compensation.

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of driving licences which have been disqualified as a result of points being issued on the evidence of illegally operating speed cameras in the last period for which figures are available. [171173]

**Mr. Coaker:** I have been asked to reply.

Information on driving licence disqualifications through totting up of penalty points does not include details of the circumstances giving rise to the endorsements of points on the licence.

### Vehicle Number Plates

**Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulation applies to the placing of *(a)* a European 12 star flag and *(b)* a UK union flag on vehicle number plates above the initials GB. [171120]

**Jim Fitzpatrick:** The Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001, prescribe the requirements to which number plates and registration marks must conform. Regulation 16 relates to the international distinguishing sign and other materials.

### Waterloo Station

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much funding will be provided for track alterations to enable domestic main line services to utilise the platforms of the Waterloo International terminal; [166637]

(2) when she expects the platforms of the Waterloo International terminal to be opened for domestic services. [166638]

**Mr. Tom Harris:** Ownership of Waterloo International transfers to the Department at the end of March 2008 following Eurostar's de-commissioning of the facility as an international station. The Department is currently working closely with Network Rail and Stagecoach South West Trains (the train operating company) to finalise the design and costs associated with the partial conversion of Waterloo International to accommodate some domestic passenger services. The cost information should be finalised early next year. Works on site are expected to commence soon after the station transfers to the Department and will take several months to complete. Services could then operate into and out of Platform 20 of Waterloo International from the start of the timetable change date in December 2008.

Options for the medium to long-term use of all five international platforms are being assessed by the Department and Network Rail as part of a wider

strategy for the upgrade of Waterloo station. Costs will be determined as part of this process. The medium term proposals would require significant infrastructure alterations at Waterloo. Additionally, it would be linked to the procurement of additional rolling stock to lengthen trains. The timescale for implementation is likely to be around 2012-14.

## TREASURY

### 2006 Pre-Budget Report

**Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the data supporting chart 5.1 in the 2006 pre-Budget report; and what the expected benefits to families in each category will be of the health in pregnancy grant. [170069]

**Jane Kennedy:** The requested data is given as follows.

*Weekly gains for families with children from tax credits and other children's measures by April 2007*

| *Gross income (£)* | *1 child (£)* | *2 children (£)* | *3 or more children (£)* | *Number of families with children in income band (million)* | *Families with children in income band as a percentage of population* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 10,000 | 30 | 35 | 88 | 1.7 | 23 |
| 10,000-19,999 | 40 | 69 | 99 | 1.1 | 14 |
| 20,000-29,999 | 14 | 26 | 59 | 1.3 | 17 |
| 30,000-39,999 | 14 | 16 | 19 | 1.2 | 16 |
| 40,000-49,999 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 0.8 | 11 |
| 50,000 and above | 5 | 6 | 6 | 1.4 | 18 |
| Overall average | 21 | 29 | 54 | 7.4 | 100 |

*Source:*
HM Treasury

The Health in Pregnancy Grant cannot be compared with this data, as it is a one-off payment to women during pregnancy. The benefit to all women receiving the Grant will be £190.

### Average Earnings: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average wage in Suffolk was in each year since 1997. [171617]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average wage in Suffolk was in each year since 1997. (171617)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

ASHE results can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

### Cancer

**Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of survival for each type of cancer was in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* primary care trust area, *(c)* hospital trust area, *(d)* region and *(e)* social demographic group in the most recent period for which figures are available. [171906]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 6 December 2007:*

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the rate of survival for each type of cancer was in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* primary care trust area, *(c)* hospitals trust area, *(d)* region and *(e)* social demographic group in the most recent period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. [171906]

The Office for National Statistics does not produce survival rates by *(a)* constituency, *(b)* primary care trust area, and *(c)* hospitals trust area, but the latest one-and five-year survival for eight common cancers by *(d)* government office region (and strategic health authority), for patients diagnosed in 1997-99 and followed up to 31 December 2004, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991&Pos=9&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Five-year cancer survival by *(e)* social demographic group was published as a collaborative paper between the Office for National Statistics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in Coleman MP et al (2004) 'Trends and socioeconomic inequalities in cancer survival in England and Wales up to 2001' in *British Journal of Cancer* 90, 1367-1373. The deprivation gaps between the most and least deprived groups, in five-year relative survival rates for the 20 most common cancers are available within this publication.

### Child Benefit Agency: Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much staff at the Child Benefit Agency were paid in bonuses in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [168943]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The Child Benefit Office employs around 1,200 people. The director of Child Benefit Operations recognises exceptional performance—including examples of excellent customer service—through a recognition bonus scheme.

The total value of bonus payments made to Child Benefit Office staff from December 2006 to November 2007 inclusive was £17,175.

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the 10 largest bonus payments made to Child Benefits Agency staff were in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [168944]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The 10 largest recognition bonus scheme payments made to Child Benefit Office staff from December 2006 to November 2007 were as follows:

| *Number of bonus payments* | *Value of bonus (£)* |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1,000 |
| 1 | 500 |
| 2 | 300 |
| 1 | 275 |
| 5 | 250 |

**Child Benefit: Personal Records**

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions CDs containing personal data have been despatched to *(a)* other departments, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* the National Audit Office by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three years; and how many of those CDs were (i) encrypted and (ii) password-protected. [167681]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* HMRC may only disclose information which it holds in accordance with the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005. Most transfers of data take place under statutory gateways which specify circumstances in which HMRC may disclose such information. All disclosures must be compliant with the Data Protection Act 1988 and the Human Rights Act 1988. Memorandums of Understanding, Partnership Agreements and Codes of Practice set out the relationship between HMRC and the department or other body receiving the data, including the specific procedures and protocols governing the use of information.

On 20 November the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the Chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what staff grade at HM Revenue and Customs has the *(a)* authority and *(b)* ability to (i) access the entire child benefit database and (ii) transfer data on that database to other storage devices. [167682]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* There is an ongoing police investigation and an independent review of HMRC's security processes and procedures for data handling by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The full terms of reference for that review are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_133_07.cf.

**Sarah Teather:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what he estimates will be the total cost to his Department of the repercussions of the loss of personal information from the Child Benefit database, including setting up the HM Revenue and Customs Child Benefit Helpline. [168118]

**Jane Kennedy:** At this stage it is too early to provide an estimate of what the total cost to HMRC may be.

**Peter Viggers:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* Government and *(b)* other bodies of the loss of personal data from the Child Benefit database. [168359]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* At this stage it is too early to provide an estimate of the cost to the Government and other bodies.

**Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the relevant password to open the Child Benefit database was supplied with the data given by the HM Revenue and Customs to the National Audit Office. [168709]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* It would be inappropriate for me to provide information relating to this issue at this stage as there is an ongoing police investigation.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the personal details lost by HM Revenue and Customs, how many of those affected were *(a)* adults and *(b)* children, broken down by sex. [168787]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The missing information contains details of child benefit records for 25 million individuals, 9.5 million adult claimants, 15.5 million children and 7.25 million families.

A breakdown of the requested information by gender could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the personal details lost by HM Revenue and Customs, how many of those affected were *(a)* adult and *(b)* children in North West Cambridgeshire constituency, broken down by sex. [168798]

**Jane Kennedy** *[holding answer 27 November 2007]:* The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients, including those in North West Cambridgeshire.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by constituency are published as part of National Statistics and can be found in tables 1a, 2 and 3 of Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis which are available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

A breakdown of the requested information by gender could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of those whose data was lost by HM Revenue and Customs were *(a)* adults and *(b)* children of each sex in (i) Southend West constituency, (ii) Southend and (iii) Essex. [169421]

**Jane Kennedy:** The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients, including those in Southend West constituency, Southend and Essex.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by constituency and local authority are published as part of National Statistics and can be

found in Tables 1a, 2 and 3 of child benefit statistics geographical analysis which are available on HMRC's website at:

http//www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geog-aug06.pdf

A breakdown of the requested information by gender could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

**Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sanctions he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take against the HM Revenue and Customs official who posted two compact discs containing confidential child benefit information; what grade the official is; and if he will make a statement. [169430]

**Jane Kennedy:** It would be inappropriate to comment on this issue as there is an ongoing investigation being conducted by the police.

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child benefit claimants in *(a)* Uxbridge constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Hillingdon are affected by the loss of bank account details by HM Revenue and Customs. [171090]

**Jane Kennedy:** The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients, including those in Uxbridge and the London borough of Hillingdon.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by constituency and local authority is published as part of National Statistics and can be found in Tables 1a and 2 of Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis which are available on HMRC's website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geogaug06.pdf.

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of those whose data was lost by HM Revenue and Customs were *(a)* adults and *(b)* children resident in (i) Ribble Valley constituency and (ii) Lancashire; and how many families this represents. [171370]

**Jane Kennedy:** The missing information contains details of all child benefit recipients including those from Ribble Valley and Lancashire.

Information on families receiving child benefit at 31 August 2006 by constituency and local authority is published as part of National Statistics and can be found in Tables 1a and 2 of Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis which are available on HMRC's website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geogaug06.pdf.

### Data Protection

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training is provided to staff in his Department and its agencies on the safe handling of data to counteract identity theft and other data security breaches. [171371]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC and its agency has in place a range of measures and procedures in relation to training and guidance on data protection and data security and transfer.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

### Death: Elderly

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of excess winter deaths were of pensioners in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [172127]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 December 2007:*

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what percentage of excess winter deaths were of pensioners in the most recent period for which figures are available. (172127)

The latest data for excess winter mortality for England and Wales are currently provisional figures for 2006/07. It is not possible to tell from mortality data whether the deceased was a pensioner. However, ONS has published figures for excess winter mortality by age group and Government Office Region (GOR) of England, and Wales on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D7089.xls

Using this table for the latest provisional year's figures available for the winter of 2006/07, 93 per cent of excess winter mortality occurred in people aged 65 and over.

### Death: Macclesfield

**Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average number of excess winter deaths in Macclesfield constituency was in each year between *(a)* 2000 and 2005; and how many there were in 2004-05. [172064]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average number of excess winter deaths in Macclesfield constituency was in the period *(a)* 2000 to 2005 and *(b)* 2004-05. (172064)

Estimates of excess winter deaths relate to a four-month period from December of one year to March of the next year. The average annual number of excess winter deaths[1,2] in Macclesfield parliamentary constituency[3] in the five winters from 2000-01 to 2004-05, and the number in winter 2004-05, was 50.

[1] The estimated number of excess winter deaths is the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] Data are based on deaths occurring in each month.

[3] Using boundaries as of 2007 for all years.

### Departmental Data Protection

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reviews have been undertaken of his Department's rules on data protection in the last two

years; if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the last review of his Department's compliance with data protection laws; and if *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies will undertake a review of their compliance with data protection laws. [168073]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

**Mr. Walker:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department's information technology and data management systems are BS7799 compliant. [168754]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data. A statement on Departments' procedures will be made on completion of the review.

## Departmental Pay

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of his Department's staff are employed within each salary band; what the title and role of each position within each salary band is; and for each salary band what the *(a)* bonus structure, *(b)* retirement provision, *(c)* expenses provision, *(d)* total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years, *(e)* average age of employee, *(f)* number of (i) women and (ii) men and *(g)* ethnic composition are. [171401]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested is as follows:

*Salary band information as at 31 October 2007*

| *Salary Band* | *Range B* | *Range C* | *Range D* | *Range E* | *SCS Payband 1* | *SCS Payband 2* | *SCS Payband 3* | *Permanent Secretary* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of staff (FTE) | 152.63 | 164.92 | 395.93 | 348.62 | 85.36 | 18.80 | 6 | 2 |

Posts within HM Treasury are known by ranges and not role titles.

*Bonus Structure*

Bonuses are paid in two circumstances: performance bonuses are those linked to the annual staff appraisal system; special bonuses are those paid to recognise exceptional performance for specific contributions or pieces of work during the year or situations outside the normal expectations of the post.

*Retirement Provision*

The retirement age for staff is 65

*Expenses Provision*

Any expenses necessarily incurred by staff in conducting the business of the Department are reimbursed in accordance with HM Treasury's travel policy.

*Total expenses incurred in each of the last 10 years*

The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

*Average age, gender breakdown and ethnic composition*

This information is published as Civil Service Statistics 2006 on the Government statistics public website

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/2006CivilServiceStatistics.p

## Departmental Telephone Services

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much each telephone contact centre for which his Department is responsible has *(a)* cost and *(b)* generated in income in each financial year since their establishment. [166543]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested relating to each specific Contact Centre is not readily available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

With regard to income generation, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary on 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1183W.

## Departmental Travel

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months; [171243]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on first-class train tickets in the last 12 months. [171269]

**Angela Eagle:** I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1186W and to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1970W.

This figure includes most, but not all, first-class train travel by HMT staff. We do not hold central records of train tickets bought with corporate credit cards or for which paper claims are submitted. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All travel and subsistence is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

### Pensioners: Suffolk

**Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of people in Suffolk were aged 65 years and over in each year since 1997. [171620]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your questions regarding how many and what proportion of people in Suffolk were aged 65 years and over in each year since 1997. (171620)

Table 1 shows the population aged 65 and over and the percentage of population aged 65 and over for Suffolk for the years requested.

The latest population estimates available are for mid-2006.

*Table 1: Population aged 65 and over and percentage of population aged 65 and over for Suffolk*

| *Mid-year* | *65 plus* | *Percentage of population 65 plus* |
|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 118,000 | 18 |
| 1998 | 119,000 | 18 |
| 1999 | 120,000 | 18 |
| 2000 | 121,000 | 18 |
| 2001 | 123,000 | 18 |
| 2002 | 124,000 | 18 |
| 2003 | 126,000 | 19 |
| 2004 | 128,000 | 19 |
| 2005 | 130,000 | 19 |
| 2006 | 131,000 | 19 |

*Note:*
Data are rounded to the nearest 1000
*Source:*
Office for National Statistics

### PriceWaterhouse Coopers

**Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Government contracts have been awarded to PricewaterhouseCoopers for the purposes of administering an insolvency in which the Government was a creditor in the last 10 years; and what percentage of Government debt was recovered in each case. [171179]

**Angela Eagle:** Information on individual contracts is not held centrally and Government interest in the contracts is not identified at project summary level. It would be necessary to review all professional services contracts with PricewaterhouseCoopers with each Department who may have been involved in insolvency work and this would incur disproportionate cost. Legal, contractual and ethical protocols safeguard propriety.

### Public Expenditure

**Mr. Boris Johnson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was distributed under the Barnett formula to *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland as a result of expenditure on London in each of the last 10 years. [169820]

**Andy Burnham:** The Barnett Formula gives the Devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland shares of changes in public expenditure allocations to UK Government Departments. It is a matter for individual UK Government Departments to allocate spending to individual regions of England such as London. Details of operation of the Barnett Formula are available in the Treasury publication 'Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly: Statement of Funding Policy'.

Full details of identifiable spending by region including London may be found in Chapter 9 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2007 (Cm 7091).

### Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

**John Hemming:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure all CD burners are removed from HM Revenue and Customs computer departments until security procedures have been reviewed. [168650]

**Jane Kennedy:** I understand that staff access to removable media has already been disabled. Desktop PCs and laptops in HMRC are no longer able to read CDs, floppy disks, USB storage and other memory card devices. This facility can only be re-enabled with the authorisation of a director or the senior member of staff responsible for data transfer in the appropriate business area.

On 20 November, the Chancellor announced an independent review of HMRC's data handling procedures to be conducted by Kieran Poynter, the chair of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

### Revenue and Customs: Northern Ireland

**Lady Hermon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the future of the HM Revenue and Customs' estate in Northern Ireland. [171048]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) is conducting a series of regional reviews of all its accommodation across the UK to match it to future operational requirements. By consolidating work in fewer locations HMRC will be able to provide a better service at a lower cost to the taxpayer.

HMRC is currently considering feedback from consultation on its initial proposals for rationalising its estate in the Belfast urban centre. All HMRC's other offices in Northern Ireland will be reviewed together next year, in order to facilitate the completion of an equality impact assessment of its proposals. Decisions will be announced after the completion of full consultation and subsequent evaluation of the proposals. HMRC is fully committed to complying with its statutory obligations in Northern Ireland.

### Revenue and Customs: Pay

**Mark Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were employed *(a)* in each salary grade and *(b)* in each region by HM Revenue and Customs (i) in 2005 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [169319]

**Angela Eagle** *[holding answer 4 December 2007]:* The numbers of staff employed by HM Revenue and Customs in each Government Office Region at the relevant dates are shown in the following table.

| *At 1 April 2005* | *SCS* | *Grade 6* | *Grade 7* | *SEO* | *HEO* | *EO* | *AO* | *AA* | *Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East of England | 14 | 58 | 133 | 538 | 1,186 | 2,070 | 2,231 | 1,262 | 7,492 |
| East Midlands | 12 | 73 | 176 | 332 | 748 | 1,377 | 1,659 | 974 | 5,351 |
| London | 267 | 556 | 786 | 1,090 | 2,693 | 3,742 | 2,585 | 1,112 | 12,831 |
| North East | 5 | 37 | 112 | 313 | 912 | 2,537 | 7,690 | 2,854 | 14,460 |
| Northern Ireland | 2 | 15 | 37 | 92 | 300 | 762 | 1,082 | 403 | 2,693 |
| North West | 39 | 144 | 294 | 619 | 1,774 | 3,796 | 6,814 | 2,473 | 15,953 |
| Scotland | 17 | 67 | 153 | 252 | 908 | 2,410 | 5,204 | 1,703 | 10,714 |
| South East | 6 | 57 | 179 | 398 | 1,597 | 3,694 | 3,632 | 1,446 | 11,009 |
| South West | 5 | 45 | 127 | 161 | 665 | 1,427 | 1,749 | 939 | 5,118 |
| Wales | 2 | 18 | 56 | 115 | 490 | 1,219 | 2,191 | 913 | 5,004 |
| West Midlands | 17 | 103 | 217 | 339 | 939 | 1,686 | 2,053 | 1,065 | 6,419 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 12 | 49 | 146 | 274 | 851 | 1,848 | 2,731 | 1,381 | 7,292 |
| Unreported and elsewhere | 3 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 42 | 146 | 95 | 27 | 334 |
| Total | 40, | 1,225 | 2,424 | 4,533 | 13,105 | 26,714 | 39,716 | 16,552 | 104,670 |
| *At 1 October 2007* | | | | | | | | | |
| East of England | 8 | 40 | 116 | 400 | 1,048 | 1,814 | 1,857 | 865 | 6,148 |
| East Midlands | 16 | 67 | 162 | 281 | 668 | 1,162 | 1,435 | 733 | 4,524 |
| London | 271 | 524 | 757 | 948 | 2,152 | 2,872 | 2,114 | 845 | 10,483 |
| North East | 7 | 36 | 114 | 280 | 772 | 2,217 | 7,152 | 2,670 | 13,248 |
| Northern Ireland | 3 | 11 | 39 | 87 | 280 | 677 | 1,021 | 275 | 2,393 |
| North West | 35 | 135 | 341 | 582 | 1,640 | 3,302 | 6,831 | 2,103 | 14,969 |
| Scotland | 17 | 55 | 140 | 230 | 830 | 2,310 | 6,008 | 1,271 | 10,861 |
| South East | 7 | 43 | 160 | 339 | 1,359 | 3,052 | 2,864 | 995 | 8,819 |
| South West | 8 | 42 | 123 | 133 | 570 | 1,166 | 1,589 | 678 | 4,309 |
| Wales | 1 | 15 | 46 | 106 | 451 | 1,082 | 2,158 | 773 | 4,632 |
| West Midlands | 17 | 99 | 199 | 282 | 812 | 1,412 | 1,854 | 779 | 5,454 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 12 | 42 | 141 | 237 | 733 | 1,538 | 2,449 | 1,012 | 6,164 |
| Unreported and elsewhere | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 116 | 78 | 8 | 227 |
| Total | 403 | 1,109 | 2,339 | 3,909 | 11,334 | 22,720 | 37,410 | 13,007 | 92,231 |

### Revenue and Customs: Stroud

**Mr. Drew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average number of people visiting the Stroud tax office for advice each week was in each year since 1997. [171016]

**Jane Kennedy:** The information requested is not available in the format requested. However it is possible to provide a weekly average for the number of callers to HMRC's Stroud inquiry centre for each year from 2003-04 to the end of October 2007 and this information is provided in the following table. The figures prior to 2003 are not available.

*Stroud inquiry centre*

| | *Total callers* | *Weekly average* |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 12,019 | 231 |
| 2004-05 | 10,850 | 209 |
| 2005-06 | 9,953 | 191 |
| 2006-07 | 6,869 | 132 |
| 2007-08[1] | 3,407 | 114 |

[1] 30 weeks to end of October 2007.

### Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

**Mr. Swire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money HM Revenue and Customs generated from revenue sharing telephone numbers in the latest period for which figures are available. [171686]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary on 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1183W.

### Social Security Benefits: EC Nationals

**Mr. Evans:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-British EU citizens are in receipt of *(a)* family benefit and *(b)* child tax credits in respect of children who are not domiciled in the UK. [171374]

**Jane Kennedy:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 817W.

### Taxation

**Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on whether changes to the tax system should be announced to Parliament first. [168531]

**Jane Kennedy:** The vast majority of changes to the tax system are announced to Parliament as part of the Budget and pre-Budget report process. To ensure tax

policy remains sufficiently flexible and reactive, for example to respond effectively to tax avoidance, tax announcements may also be made outside of this process.

### Taxation: Sports

**Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will overturn the decision by HM Revenue and Customs not to treat pigeon racing as a sport for tax purposes; [171659]

(2) what factors HM Revenue and Customs took into account when determining whether pigeon racing should be treated as a sport for tax purposes; and if he will make a statement. [171678]

**Jane Kennedy:** HM Revenue and Customs are not the arbiters of whether pigeon racing should be treated as a sport and have made no determination as such for tax purposes.

### Unemployment: Greater London

**Mr. Randall:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 16 to 24-year-olds were not in employment, education or training in *(a)* the Uxbridge constituency, *(b)* each London borough and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [169974]

**Angela Eagle:** The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

*Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 December 2007:*

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many 16 to 24 year olds were not in employment, education or training in (a) the Uxbridge constituency, (b) each London borough and (c) England in each year since 1997. (169974)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The tables attached show the numbers of 16 to 24 year olds not in full-time education, employment or training, resident in the Uxbridge constituency, each London borough, and England. Estimates are provided from the local area LFS for the twelve months ending February, for 1999 to 2004, and from the APS for the twelve months ending March, for 2005 to 2007. The tables also show these numbers as the percentage of all 16 to 24 year olds in the areas, for each year, which allows changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers. Data for the twelve month period ending in February 1998 are not readily available.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Changes over time should be treated with particular caution.

*Table 1: Persons aged 16 to 24 who are not in full-time education, employment or training: 12 months ending February 1999*

| Area | Number (thousand) | Percentage of all 16 to 24-year-olds |
|---|---|---|
| Uxbridge constituency | 1 | 12 |
| City of London | [1] | [1] |
| Barking and Dagenham | 4 | 20 |
| Barnet | 4 | 13 |
| Bexley | 4 | 15 |
| Brent | 5 | 14 |
| Bromley | 4 | 16 |
| Camden | 3 | 14 |
| Croydon | 6 | 17 |
| Ealing | 5 | 19 |
| Enfield | 5 | 15 |
| Greenwich | 4 | 25 |
| Hackney | 8 | 35 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 3 | 14 |
| Haringey | 7 | 23 |
| Harrow | 2 | 10 |
| Havering | 3 | 11 |
| Hillingdon | 3 | 10 |
| Hounslow | 4 | 19 |
| Islington | 6 | 28 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 4 | 24 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 2 | 11 |
| Lambeth | 5 | 17 |
| Lewisham | 4 | 19 |
| Merton | 1 | 9 |
| Newham | 12 | 35 |
| Redbridge | 4 | 17 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 2 | 15 |
| Southwark | 10 | 27 |
| Sutton | 2 | 10 |
| Tower Hamlets | 7 | 26 |
| Waltham Forest | 7 | 23 |
| Wandsworth | 3 | 10 |
| Westminster | 4 | 25 |
| England | 811 | 16 |

[1] Sample size too small to provide estimates.

*Notes:*

1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution

*Source:*

Annual local area Labour Force Survey

*Table 2: Persons aged 16 to 24 who are not in full-time education, employment or training: 12 months ending February 2000*

| Area | Number (thousand) | Percentage of all 16 to 24-year-olds |
|---|---|---|
| Uxbridge constituency | [1] | [1] |
| City of London | [1] | [1] |
| Barking and Dagenham | 4 | 18 |
| Barnet | 6 | 14 |
| Bexley | 5 | 21 |
| Brent | 8 | 18 |
| Bromley | 3 | 12 |
| Camden | 1 | 5 |
| Croydon | 4 | 14 |
| Ealing | 4 | 11 |
| Enfield | 5 | 15 |
| Greenwich | 4 | 21 |

*Table 2: Persons aged 16 to 24 who are not in full-time education, employment or training: 12 months ending February 2000*

| Area | Number (thousand) | Percentage of all 16 to 24-year-olds |
|---|---|---|
| Hackney | 9 | 33 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 5 | 22 |
| Haringey | 6 | 19 |
| Harrow | 4 | 16 |
| Havering | 3 | 15 |
| Hillingdon | 3 | 13 |
| Hounslow | 2 | 9 |
| Islington | 5 | 25 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 2 | 20 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 2 | 14 |
| Lambeth | 7 | 24 |
| Lewisham | 5 | 18 |
| Merton | 2 | 13 |
| Newham | 11 | 33 |
| Redbridge | 5 | 17 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 1 | 13 |
| Southwark | 7 | 22 |
| Sutton | 2 | 13 |
| Tower Hamlets | 6 | 19 |
| Waltham Forest | 4 | 16 |
| Wandsworth | 4 | 14 |
| Westminster | 3 | 17 |
| England | 792 | 15 |

[1] Sample size too small to provide estimates.
*Notes:*
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2.Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.
*Source:*
Annual local area Labour Force Survey

*Table 3: Persons aged 16 to 24 who are not in full-time education, employment or training: 12 months ending February 2001*

| Area | Number (thousand) | Percentage of all 16 to 24-year-olds |
|---|---|---|
| Uxbridge constituency | 1 | 12 |
| City of London | [1]— | [1]— |
| Barking and Dagenham | 5 | 24 |
| Barnet | 6 | 15 |
| Bexley | 3 | 12 |
| Brent | 8 | 22 |
| Bromley | 4 | 13 |
| Camden | 4 | 18 |
| Croydon | 6 | 19 |
| Ealing | 9 | 24 |
| Enfield | 3 | 9 |
| Greenwich | 7 | 28 |
| Hackney | 6 | 26 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 5 | 22 |
| Haringey | 9 | 31 |
| Harrow | 3 | 15 |
| Havering | 2 | 8 |
| Hillingdon | 5 | 21 |
| Hounslow | 3 | 11 |
| Islington | 5 | 21 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1 | 6 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 2 | 11 |
| Lambeth | 4 | 11 |
| Lewisham | 4 | 13 |
| Merton | 4 | 18 |
| Newham | 9 | 26 |
| Redbridge | 3 | 12 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 1 | 7 |
| Southwark | 8 | 28 |
| Sutton | 3 | 16 |
| Tower Hamlets | 7 | 21 |
| Waltham Forest | 5 | 19 |
| Wandsworth | 4 | 14 |
| Westminster | 4 | 17 |
| England | 808 | 16 |

[1] Sample size too small to provide estimates.
*Notes:*
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.
*Source:*
Annual local area Labour Force Survey

## Welfare Tax Credits

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that tax credit claimants are consulted before deductions are made to compensate for overpayments; [163504]

(2) what measures are in place to assist families in financial hardship as a result of tax credit overpayments; [163507]

(3) if he will take steps to ensure that repayment demands made of tax credit claimants who have received overpayments are affordable; [164661]

(4) what procedures are in place for consultations between his Department and HM Revenue and Customs to ensure that demands for repayments made to tax credit claimants who have been overpaid by both departments are affordable. [164660]

**Jane Kennedy:** HMRC's approach on recovery of overpayments is set out in Code of Practice 26 'What happens if we have paid you too much tax credits'. In cases where recovery is made from an ongoing award, a customer's award notice will confirm the amount of the overpayment and how much the award will be reduced by to recover the sum. To prevent hardship, payments from ongoing award are restricted to 10 per cent. of the tax credit award for those on maximum tax credits awards (those families with the lowest incomes). For those on a tapered award (those families whose income is higher than the WTC or CTC income threshold) recovery is set at 25 per cent. If families face financial difficulties on the reduced payments, they are advised to contact HMRC and ask for their case to be reconsidered.

If the customer is no longer entitled to tax credits, or their tax credits award has ended, as the household has changed, HMRC will write asking for a direct payment. The customer can pay back the amount over 12 months or, if a family says this would cause them financial hardship, over a longer period.

In exceptional circumstances, HMRC may write off all or part of an overpayment if it would cause hardship to pay it back.

I announced to the House on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 944, that HMRC will replace the "reasonable belief test" with a clearer test that will set out customer's responsibilities for checking factual information, and what in turn they can expect from HMRC.

### Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to recover tax credits overpaid to claimants from their estates after their decease, as referred to in the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 243W, on welfare tax credits: overpayments. [169509]

**Jane Kennedy:** Where a customer has died, HMRC make every effort to obtain a voluntary settlement of any outstanding overpayment from their personal representative or executor. If there are no funds in the estate, or if HMRC are unable to identify the personal representative or executor, the overpayment is written off.

In cases where a household has broken down and one of the couple has since died, both customers remain jointly and severally liable in law for any outstanding overpayment. If there are no funds in the deceased estate HMRC attempt to recover the full overpayment from the surviving partner taking account of their personal circumstances and our hardship provisions. But, HMRC would seek to do so sensitively and may, for example, recover the overpayment over an extended period or use our discretion to recover less than the full amount in some cases if appropriate.

## WALES

### Corporate Hospitality

**David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [171312]

**Mr. Hain:** Chapter 7 of the ministerial code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

### Departmental Conditions of Employment

**Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of posts in his Department have been recategorised from back office to frontline posts as classified by the Gershon efficiency review in each year since 2004. [172263]

**Mr. Hain:** The Wales Office is a small office which supports the Secretary of State for Wales. We do not have executive functions, and posts are not defined as 'frontline' or 'back office'.

### Departmental Pay

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department and its agencies spent on end-of-year bonus payments in each of the last five years. [171539]

**Mr. Hain:** Nil.

## WORK AND PENSIONS

### Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training programmes will be provided for Child Support Agency staff relating to the establishment of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [167815]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** People working in the Child Support Agency will be prepared for the establishment of the Child maintenance and Enforcement Commission through training and communication programmes, which will be developed as key appointments and decisions are made.

It is worth noting that the introduction of changes to the statutory maintenance system will be phased over the next few years, and we anticipate the Commission developing training programmes in line with these changes.

### Children: Maintenance

**Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures the Child Support Agency has in place to deal with cases of disputed parentage. [167814]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the Hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Stephen Geraghty dated 6 December 2007:*

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and pensions, what procedures the Child Support Agency has in place to deal with cases of disputed parentage. [167814].

When preparing a maintenance assessment for a qualifying child, the Agency can assume parentage if one of a number of conditions are met. S3ection 26 of the Child Support Act 1991 details each of the circumstances in which the Agency can assume parentage.

An alleged non-resident parent can seek to rebut such a presumption via the courts at any time if they so wish, but in the meantime the Agency will proceed with making and enforcing a maintenance assessment. This speeds up the assessment process and helps prevent parentage disputes which only serve to delay the flow of maintenance to the detriment of the children.

In addition the Agency can offer alleged non-resident parents who dispute parentage access to DNA test. However parentage is assumed where the alleged non-resident parent refuses to take a DNA test or the test result shows that they are the parent of the child in question.

## Climate Change

**Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take by (i) 2012 and (ii) 2020 in relation to adaptation to the effects of climate change as they affect his Departmental responsibilities; and if he will make a statement. [165575]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The Climate Change Bill and the cross-Government Adaptation Policy Framework (due for publication in spring 2008) will set out the Government's overall strategy on climate change. As yet, there are no specific targets in place for adaptation—these will be set following the publication of the Adaptation Policy Framework. The Department continues to work towards the achievement of the carbon reduction and neutrality targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate.

DWP recognises that the most vulnerable in society may be disproportionately affected by climate change. As such, it is important to take steps to adapt to the short, medium and long-term risks and impacts. At the beginning of this year, the Department commissioned the Hadley Centre for Climate Change to undertake a high level assessment, building on an internal review carried out in 2003, of the risks that climate change poses to its policies and operations. This was launched at the Department's Sustainable Development conference in March, which focused and engaged senior officials specifically on the theme of climate change adaptation. The review is expected to be completed by the end of 2007, and will form the basis for a future programme of adaptation work, based on the priorities identified.

## Crisis Loans: Standards

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in implementing the Crisis Loans Improvement Plan; and if he will make a statement. [163589]

**Caroline Flint:** The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 6 December 2007:*

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your question on what progress has been made in implementing the Crisis Loan Improvement Plan. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Crisis Loan Improvement Plan involved a pilot which started in Sheffield Contact Centre on 21 May 2007 which involved working with Benefit Delivery Centres to provide decisions on Crisis Loan applications within three hours of the customer's telephone call. Due to the success of this pilot the process has since been extended to 12 Social Fund Centres, supported by eight Contact Centres answering all Crisis Loan calls.

The Contact Centres are able to move calls around the network to support demand. After three months 700 Contact Centre staff, supported by Benefit Delivery Centre colleagues are undertaking this work. As a result over 90% of calls handled in this way are now being answered first time.

In addition, the call logger system, which captures management information on volumes of calls and numbers of calls answered has been further developed and is currently being implemented in Benefit Delivery Centres and Contact Centres to ensure that sufficient staff are available to answer calls.

I hope this is helpful.

## Departmental Publicity

**Mr. Philip Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies. [165230]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The amount of full-time equivalent staff responsible for brand management and marketing in the Department and its agencies is set out in the following table. It is not possible to separate figures for each category as many posts combine both roles.

| *Agency* | *Staff* |
|---|---|
| Child Support Agency | 4 |
| DWP Corporate | 27 |
| Disability and Carers Service | 1 |
| Health and Safety Executive | 3 |
| Jobcentre Plus | 92 |
| The Pension Service | 11 |
| The Rent Service | 5 |
| Total | 143 |

*Note:*
These figures have been rounded to reflect part-time staff.

## Government Equalities Office

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Government Department the Government Equalities Office comes under; and what the Ministerial responsibilities are of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the office. [170007]

**Barbara Follett** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* The Government Equalities Office is a Government Department in its own right; support services are currently provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. Barbara Follett supports the Minister for Women and Equality (Ms Harman) across the range of equalities issues. A revised list of ministerial responsibilities was published by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 18 October 2007. Copies have been placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of the House. The list can also be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ministerial_responsibilities.aspx

## Incapacity Benefit

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many incapacity benefit claimants in receipt of incapacity benefit for two to five years have found *(a)* employment and *(b)* sustained employment in each year since 2000; [162355]

(2) how many incapacity benefit claimants in receipt of incapacity benefit for five years or more have found *(a)* employment and *(b)* sustained employment in each year since 2000; [162357]

(3) how many incapacity benefit claimants in receipt of incapacity benefit for between one and two years have found *(a)* employment and *(b)* sustained employment in each year since 2000. [162358]

**Mrs. McGuire:** The information is not available as claimants are not obliged to explain why they are leaving incapacity benefit, and the information we have, therefore, is not considered to provide an accurate picture.

### Incapacity Benefit: Appeals

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* cost of administering, *(b)* number and *(c)* average success rate was of appeals against refusal of incapacity benefit in each of the last 10 years. [169912]

**Bridget Prentice:** I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is only available from 2000-01 and the costs are not broken down specifically by benefit type.

The following table shows the total number of incapacity benefit appeals cleared at a hearing since 2000-01 and the number found in favour of the appellant. The cost figure for each year represents the average cost of clearing an appeal over the entire appeal caseload and is not broken down specifically by benefit type, or by type of clearance (hearing/non hearing).

*Appeals for incapacity benefit*

| | *Intake*[1] | *Cleared at hearing*[2] | *Found in favour of the appellant*[3] | *Percentage found in favour of the appellant*[4] | *Average cost of clearing an appeal (£)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 48,520 | 37,520 | 15,190 | 40.5 | 213 |
| 2001-02 | 49,770 | 35,440 | 14,890 | 42.0 | 222 |
| 2002-03 | 61,150 | 43,030 | 19,630 | 45.6 | 235 |
| 2003-04 | 62,970 | 47,490 | 22,250 | 46.9 | 243 |
| 2004-05 | 62,610 | 44,540 | 21,150 | 47.5 | 253 |
| 2005-06 | 63,650 | 50,270 | 23,680 | 47.1 | 262 |
| 2006-07 | 66,694 | 52,264 | 25,900 | 49.6 | 261 |

[1] The number of appeals accepted by the Tribunals Service
[2] All decisions that went to hearing that were cleared.
[3] All hearing decisions cleared in favour of appellant.
[4] The percentage of all hearing decisions cleared in favour of appellant.
*Source:*
The Tribunal Service, from GAPS and G2 Reports

### Jobseeker's Allowance: Basic Skills

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in receipt of basic skills training have succeeded in obtaining a basic skills qualification in each year since 1997. [162361]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** Skills provision is a devolved issue. Responsibility for monitoring training outcomes rests with the Learning and Skills Council in England, Local Authorities in Scotland and The Welsh Assembly Government in Wales.

Jobseeker's allowance customers can undertake part-time skills training including basic skills courses without a referral from Jobcentre Plus provided it does not conflict with the work search requirements of their benefit. Jobcentre Plus would not routinely record qualification outcomes for these part-time courses.

Some jobseeker's allowance customers with identified basic skills needs that are a barrier to finding work are referred by Jobcentre Plus to full-time basic skills provision on a voluntary basis. These customers are supported by a training allowance.

The recently published "Employment, Opportunity and Progression: making skills work" aims to build on these arrangements and provide a more integrated employment and skills service. Obtaining more comprehensive information about the skills as well as the work outcomes will be one element of the new approach.

### New Deal Schemes: Disabled

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals participated in the new deal for disabled people in each year since its inception; and what estimate he has made of the number of people who will access *(a)* the new deal for disabled people and *(b)* pathways to work following the roll out of pathways to work, broken down by Jobcentre Plus district. [165524]

**Caroline Flint:** An estimate of the total number of people who will access new deal for disabled people (NDDP) and pathways to work, following roll out of pathways to work, broken down by Jobcentre Plus district, is not available.

Up to the end of August 2007, 271,180 people had participated in new deal for disabled people.

Information on the number of people starting the programme in each year is in the following table.

*New deal for disabled people*

| | *Number of individuals starting* |
|---|---|
| 2001 | 5,740 |
| 2002 | 24,320 |

*New deal for disabled people*

| | Number of individuals starting |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 30,260 |
| 2004 | 48,280 |
| 2005 | 58,140 |
| 2006 | 61,600 |

*Notes:*
1. The new deal for disabled people programme was introduced in July 2001.
2. Latest complete year data is for 2006.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Years are calendar years. Data for 2001 relates to July 2001 to December 2001.
5. If an individual has started more than once, only their latest start will be included in the table.

*Source:*
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

## School Leaving

**Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on child support cases of having a different school leaving age in England and other parts of the United Kingdom; [165771]

(2) whether he will seek to amend the definition of child in article 55 of the Child Support Act 1991 in line with the Government's proposals to raise the minimum age to which young people must stay in education or training; and if he will make a statement; [166270]

(3) if he will assess the effect of the Government's proposals to raise the minimum age to which young people must stay in education or training on the projected caseload of *(a)* the Child Support Agency and *(b)* the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and if he will make a statement. [166271]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The details of the Government's proposals to raise the school leaving age are currently being developed. However we intend to continue to mirror child benefit provisions in the definition of a child for child maintenance purposes.

If young people in England are required to stay at school or in training until they are 17 or 18, we anticipate that non-resident parents will still be liable for maintenance until the young person leaves school or training. Young people in other parts of the UK who can choose to leave education or training at 16 will cease to receive maintenance should they do so.

The Government's proposals on raising the school leaving age are due to take effect from 2013, by which time we anticipate that child maintenance cases will largely be subject to the new scheme's rules.

With the increased focus on voluntary arrangements and the ending of the requirement that parents with care on benefit be treated as applying for child maintenance, not all of the current Child Support Agency caseload will choose to use the statutory maintenance service and be subject to the new scheme's rules. Since we do not know the precise composition of the resulting caseload, it is not possible to estimate the impact on those existing cases on moving to the Commission.

## Social Fund

**Julia Goldsworthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the rate of refusal was for Social Fund applications in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* type and *(b)* reason for rejection. [163513]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information is in the following tables.

*Budgeting loans, Great Britain, 1 April 2007 to 31 October 2007*

| Refusal reason | Number of initial refusals | Initial refusals as percentage of initial decisions |
|---|---|---|
| Outstanding debt | 96,300 | 11.1 |
| Not on IS/JSA(IB)/PC | 40,600 | 4.7 |
| Not in receipt of qualifying benefit for 26 weeks | 65,400 | 7.5 |
| Other | 3,900 | 0.4 |
| Total | 206,100 | 23.7 |

*Crisis loans, Great Britain, 1 April 2007 to 31 October 2007*

| Refusal reason | Number of initial refusals | Initial refusals as percentage of initial decisions |
|---|---|---|
| No serious risk to health and safety | 247,400 | 21.8 |
| Help available from another source | 1,100 | 0.1 |
| Excluded items | 13,100 | 1.2 |
| Inability to repay | 7,400 | 0.6 |
| Previous application and decision | 33,100 | 2.9 |
| JSA sanction or disallowance | 5,800 | 0.5 |
| Other | 5,200 | 0.5 |
| Total | 313,100 | 27.5 |

*Community care grants, Great Britain, 1 April 2007 to 31 October 2007*

| Refusal reason | Number of initial refusals | Initial refusals as percentage of initial decisions |
|---|---|---|
| Savings sufficient to meet cost | 300 | 0.1 |
| Not in receipt of IS/JSA(IB)/PC and unlikely to be | 27,400 | 8.5 |
| Excluded items | 9,800 | 3.0 |
| Amount is less than £30, not travelling expenses | 200 | 0.1 |
| Direction 4 not satisfied | 106,700 | 33.1 |
| Previous application and decision | 9,000 | 2.8 |
| Insufficient priority | 19,300 | 6.0 |
| Other | 2,200 | 0.7 |
| Total | 174,800 | 54.2 |

*Key:*
IS =income support
JSA(IB) = jobseeker's allowance (income-based)
PC = pension credit
*Notes*
1. An application may be refused for more than one reason. These tables are based on primary refusal reasons.
2. Numbers of initial refusals have been rounded to the nearest 100. Percentages have been rounded to one decimal place and have been calculated from unrounded numbers. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
*Source:*
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

## Social Security Benefits

**Chris Grayling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of expected *(a)* on-flows, *(b)* off-flows and *(c)* stock claimant numbers for (i) incapacity benefit (credits only), (ii) incapacity benefit (benefits) (iii) severe disablement allowance, (iv) income support and (v) jobseeker's allowance in each year to 2019-20. [163511]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** The available information is in the tables.

The figures provided are projections that are made as part of the normal process of assessing long-term public finances. As part of this, projections for jobseeker's allowance make use of the Treasury's unemployment assumption.

The figures provided in the tables are in line with the cautious and prudent approach to making fiscal projections, where the impact of existing and proposed policies is taken into account once there is robust evidence of their effect, but the impact of new or planned policies is not considered where the evidence is more limited. For example, the incapacity benefits figures include estimates of the impact of the roll-out of Pathways to Work but not the introduction of Employment and Support Allowance.

The figures are not therefore an assessment of the aims or effect of Government strategy in the benefit and employment field.

*Projected numbers of working-age claimants of incapacity benefit credits only—Great Britain 2006-07 to 2019-20*

| | Claimants | Flows-on | thousand Flows-off |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 987 | 285 | 284 |
| 2007-08 | 997 | 286 | 280 |
| 2008-09 | 990 | 271 | 283 |
| 2009-10 | 974 | 262 | 276 |
| 2010-11 | 974 | 269 | 259 |
| 2011-12 | 979 | 270 | 259 |
| 2012-13 | 983 | 271 | 260 |
| 2013-14 | 987 | 272 | 260 |
| 2014-15 | 993 | 273 | 260 |
| 2015-16 | 998 | 274 | 261 |
| 2016-17 | 1,005 | 274 | 261 |
| 2017-18 | 1,011 | 275 | 261 |
| 2018-19 | 1,019 | 275 | 260 |
| 2019-20 | 1,026 | 276 | 262 |

*Projected numbers of working-age claimants in receipt of incapacity benefit—Great Britain 2006-07 to 2019-20*

| | Claimants | Flows -on | thousand Flows-off |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 1,456 | 311 | 357 |
| 2007-08 | 1,408 | 312 | 356 |
| 2008-09 | 1,348 | 297 | 358 |
| 2009-10 | 1,284 | 288 | 347 |
| 2010-11 | 1,261 | 304 | 309 |
| 2011-12 | 1,246 | 308 | 319 |
| 2012-13 | 1,224 | 310 | 316 |
| 2013-14 | 1,213 | 314 | 311 |
| 2014-15 | 1,207 | 317 | 309 |
| 2015-16 | 1,204 | 321 | 309 |
| 2016-17 | 1,207 | 325 | 309 |
| 2017-18 | 1,212 | 330 | 311 |
| 2018-19 | 1,221 | 334 | 312 |
| 2019-20 | 1,230 | 338 | 314 |

*Projected numbers of claimants (both working-age and pension-age) of severe disablement allowance—Great Britain 2006-07 to 2019-20*

| | Claimants | thousand Flows-off |
|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 276 | 18 |
| 2007-08 | 258 | 14 |
| 2008-09 | 244 | 13 |
| 2009-10 | 231 | 12 |
| 2010-11 | 219 | 12 |
| 2011-12 | 208 | 10 |
| 2012-13 | 198 | 11 |
| 2013-14 | 188 | 9 |
| 2014-15 | 178 | 10 |
| 2015-16 | 169 | 8 |
| 2016-17 | 160 | 9 |
| 2017-18 | 152 | 8 |
| 2018-19 | 144 | 8 |
| 2019-20 | 136 | 8 |

*Notes:*
1. Figures are based on published Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 estimates.
2. Figures do not take into account new or planned policies.
3. Figures are projections and are therefore subject to revisions.
4. Figures include estimates of the impact of equalisation of state pension age on incapacity benefit.
5. New flows onto severe disablement allowance ceased from April 2001.
6. Figures for severe disablement allowance include working-age and pensioner claimants.
7. The balance between flows-on and flows-off will not reconcile to year-on-year changes. This is due to the within-year averaging applied to claimant projections.

*Projected numbers of claimants of income support—Great Britain 2006-07 to 2019-20*

| | Caseload | Flows-on | thousand Flows-off |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 2,128 | 625 | 640 |
| 2008-09 | 2,099 | 608 | 626 |
| 2009-10 | 2,064 | 608 | 624 |
| 2010-11 | 2,051 | 618 | 622 |
| 2011-12 | 2,060 | 623 | 626 |
| 2012-13 | 2,080 | 626 | 627 |
| 2013-14 | 2,092 | 629 | 626 |
| 2014-15 | 2,099 | 633 | 626 |
| 2015-16 | 2,110 | 637 | 626 |
| 2016-17 | 2,124 | 641 | 627 |

*Projected numbers of claimants of income support—Great Britain 2006-07 to 2019-20*

| | Caseload | Flows-on | Thousand Flows-off |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2017-18 | 2,144 | 645 | 627 |
| 2018-19 | 2,163 | 649 | 627 |
| 2019-20 | 2,188 | 654 | 628 |

*Notes:*

1. Figures are based on published Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 estimates.
2. Figures do not take into account new or planned policies.
3. Figures are projections and are therefore subject to revisions.
4. Figures include estimates of the impact of equalisation of state pension age on income support.
5. The balance between flows-on and flows-off will not reconcile to year-on-year changes. This is due to the within-year averaging applied to claimant projections.
6. The figures for income support will include the majority of the projections for incapacity benefit credits-only.

*NAO-audited assumption of the numbers on jobseeker's allowance*

| | Thousand |
|---|---|
| 2007-08 | 842 |
| 2008-09 | 871 |
| 2009-10 | 894 |
| 2010-11 | 896 |
| 2011-12 | 896 |

*Notes:*

1. These figures relate to Great Britain, and are consistent with the assumption for the UK.
2. The assumption on the future claimant count is the average of a number of forecasts, all of which are made by non-Governmental organisations. When these forecasters predict that the claimant count will increase (as here), it follows that the assumption will reflect that increase. Were these forecasters to predict a decrease in the claimant count, then the assumption would remain constant at its current level for all future years.
3. These figures are audited by the National Audit Office.
4. Since very few of the external forecasters predict the claimant count beyond 2011-12, the assumption ends in that year.
5. The claimant count in 2011-12 is equivalent to 2.9 per cent. of the economically active population of working age, based on the calculations underpinning the Long-Term Public Finance Report. Projections for 2012-13 onwards assume that this rate will be constant.

### Stevenage

**Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Leader of the House on the *(a)* ministerial role of and *(b)* support for the hon. Member for Stevenage. [170004]

**Mr. Hain** *[holding answer 3 December 2007]:* I have had no discussions with the Leader of the House on this subject. However, there have been various discussions at official level about the provision of administrative and logistical support from my Department to the Government Equalities Office, including ministerial support.

### Unemployed: Basic Skills

**Mr. Clappison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research has been carried out into the number of benefit claimants who have undertaken basic skills training whilst in receipt of benefits and who have subsequently been assessed as having basic skills needs on completion of such training. [162360]

**Mr. Plaskitt:** None. However, to address Jobcentre Plus customers' skills barriers, the new Employability Skills programme was introduced in August 2007. This programme has been developed specifically for Jobcentre Plus customers. Measurable outcomes include gaining an employability certificate and associated job outcomes.

A joint Jobcentre Plus/Learning and Skills Council management information strategy has been developed to evaluate the impact that this training has on our customers and includes collection of data to measure retention and attrition rates together with outcome data for both qualifications and progression into work.

Jobcentre Plus continues to fund basic skill assessments and training provision for customers that are eligible for the mandatory new deal programmes.

### Winter Fuel Payments

**Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average percentage of pensioners' energy bills likely to be met by the winter fuel allowance in 2007-08. [163849]

**Mr. Mike O'Brien** *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The information is in the following table. The winter fuel payment is intended to provide a contribution towards winter heating bills which account for around 60 per cent. of the total annual fuel bill. The payment provides a significant contribution to these higher winter costs. Winter fuel payments have increased from 20 in 1997-98 to the current value of £200 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 years of age, and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over.

*2007-08*

| | |
|---|---|
| Average expenditure on fuel (£) | 731 |
| Average winter fuel payment (£) | 236 |
| Likely percentage of total fuel bill met by winter fuel payment (Percentage) | 32 |

Between 1996-97 and 2005-06 pensioners' incomes increased by 29 per cent. in real terms, compared with a 15 per cent. real terms increase in utility bills between 1996-97 and 2006. It is important to note that whilst pensioner incomes tend to increase consistently, with two per cent growth between 2004-05 and 2005-06 building on the growth in earlier years, utility bills tend to fluctuate.

Average household fuel expenditure for 2007-08 is estimated using the domestic fuel price inflation rate between the second quarter of 2006 to the second quarter of 2007, of 6 per cent. This is the most recent reliable fuel price inflation data, available from the BERR quarterly energy prices September 2007 report. The estimates given here for 2007-08 are subject to change if fuel inflation for the year ahead deviates from this rate.

*Notes:*

1. Figures for 2007-08 are estimates based on the most recent available data and projections.
2. Average winter fuel payments have been calculated by dividing expenditure on winter fuel payments by the number of households in receipt of winter fuel payments.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Monday 26 November 2007*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Sheltered Housing

16. **Mr. John Leech** (Manchester, Withington) (LD): What assessment she has made of the level of satisfaction amongst older sheltered housing residents with floating support under supporting people. [158165]

*[Official Report, 16 October 2007, Vol. 464, c. 690-92.]*

The following answer was given to a supplementary question:

**Hazel Blears:** ... I am sure that the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mr. Leech) is aware that his council in Manchester is a four-star local authority providing excellent services, with an excellent direction of travel.

*Letter of correction from Hazel Blears:*

It has been brought to my attention that a reference I made at my Department's Oral Questions on 16 October was incorrect.

I referred to Manchester as a 'four-star local authority providing excellent services, with an excellent direction of travel' [16 October 2007 Column 692]. In doing so, I was referring incorrectly to the assessment made by the Audit Commission of Manchester's performance in delivering its Supporting People programme.

For Supporting People, the Audit Commission assessed Manchester as providing 'an excellent three star service that has excellent prospects for improvement'. This, rather than a four-star scoring, is the highest rating achievable for that programme. I would be grateful if a correction on this could be noted in the Official Record.

I am copying this letter to Eric Pickles MP and Greg Hands MP.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Wednesday 28 November 2007*

## JUSTICE

### Community Service Orders

**John McDonnell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unpaid work appointments have been cancelled since January, broken down by probation area. [155367]

*[Official Report, 17 September 2007, Vol. 464, c. 2245-46.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr. Hanson:*

Errors have been identified in the text and table of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2245-2246W. The correct answer should have been:

Across all probation areas a total of 29,865 work appointments (4.9 per cent.) were cancelled between 1 January 2007 and 30 June 2007. This compares with 583,430 work appointments which were kept during the same period. The number of unpaid work appointments cancelled in each probation area is detailed in the table below.

| *Area* | *Appointment cancelled* |
|---|---|
| Avon and Somerset | 848 |
| Bedfordshire | 225 |
| Cambridgeshire | 777 |
| Cheshire | 1,737 |
| County Durham | 41 |
| Cumbria | 429 |
| Derbyshire | 62 |
| Devon and Cornwall | 311 |
| Dorset | 164 |
| Dyfed Powys | 21 |
| Essex | 747 |
| Gloucestershire | 182 |
| Greater Manchester | 472 |
| Gwent | 884 |
| Hampshire | 1,927 |
| Hertfordshire | 939 |
| Humberside | 107 |
| Kent | 1,589 |
| Lancashire | 328 |
| Leicestershire and Rutland | 489 |
| Lincolnshire | 204 |
| London | 3,786 |
| Merseyside | 768 |
| Norfolk | 1,183 |
| North Wales | 318 |
| North Yorkshire | 248 |
| Northamptonshire | 177 |
| Northumbria | 237 |
| Nottinghamshire | 301 |
| South Wales | 121 |
| South Yorkshire | 445 |
| Staffordshire | 1,346 |
| Suffolk | 481 |
| Surrey | 181 |
| Sussex | 657 |
| Teesside | 30 |
| Thames Valley | 4,772 |
| Warwickshire | 34 |
| West Mercia | 1,152 |
| West Midlands | 1,090 |
| West Yorkshire | 25 |
| Wiltshire | 30 |

# Ministerial Corrections

*Tuesday 4 December 2007*

## TREASURY

### Tax Credits

**Mr. Francois:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total number of tax credit overpayments made to couples who have since separated is; and in how many such cases *(a)* overpayments are owed, *(b)* recovery of the whole of the joint liability is being pursued against one party only and *(c)* one party is untraceable. [113664]

*[Official Report, 8 January 2007, Vol. 455, c. 426W.]*

*Letter of correction from Jane Kennedy:*

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 426W.

The correct answer should have been:

At April 2006 there were about 220,000 claims originally made by couples, who are recorded as having split up by that date, and for which there were outstanding undisputed overpayments over £10 for either 2003-04 or 2004-05.

# Ministerial Corrections

*Thursday 6 December 2007*

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Household Rubbish

**Mr. Brian Jenkins** (Tamworth) (Lab): My hon. Friend will realise that we all pay for household collection through the council tax. Does he recognise that improving recycling is one the main contributory factors to reducing household waste? Will he re-emphasise that and send out one of his circulars to each council saying that it is up to them to decide their policies, and not this Government?

*[Official Report, 27 November 2007, Vol. 468, c. 132.]*

*Letter of correction from Mr. Dhanda:*

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Tamworth on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 132.

A letter has been sent to the MP and made available in the Library of the House.

The correct answer should have been:

**Mr. Dhanda:** We want to work with local authorities and, as I say, it is up to them if they want to be among the five pilots. The mood that we sense among local authorities is that this process is a positive way of reducing waste, increasing recycling and having more money to return as rebate. This will not be a profit-making exercise. All revenues raised through charges under a scheme have to be paid back as rebates.

### Local Government Finance

**Mr. Bone:** ...Given that 52,000 new homes are to be built in north Northamptonshire over the next few years, 30 per cent. of which will be for migrant workers, and that no infrastructure programmes are being planned, will she come to my constituency and explain to the protest groups why no such infrastructure plans exist for Wellingborough as part of the growth strategy?

*[Official Report, 27 November 2007, Vol. 468, c. 137.]*

*Letter of correction from Yvette Cooper:*

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Wellingborough on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 137.

A letter has been sent to the MP and made available in the Library of the House.

The correct answer should have been:

**Yvette Cooper:** We have put substantial investment into infrastructure and we are going further. We have set out proposals for £1.7 billion of additional infrastructure investment over the next three years from our Department alone. That is in addition to the investment from the Department for Transport and so on. Also, we are today publishing the Planning Reform Bill, which includes proposals for a community infrastructure levy. I would encourage people in the hon. Gentleman's constituency to look properly at that and at other ways of raising additional infrastructure funding for his area.

### Housing and Regeneration Bill

**John Bercow:** I am grateful to the Minister of State both for her generosity and for her concern for my physical health.

The draft south-east plan presented to the Government in March 2006 proposed the creation of 28,900 new homes per year. I do not sniff at that—there is a need for new housing—but the plan added the rider that the creation of new homes should be closely related to the availability of infrastructure and associated services. Now that the Government's panel of planning inspectors has said that it does not accept that new home levels should be contingent on infrastructure, I eagerly anticipate discovering on which side of the argument the Minister falls.

*[Official Report, 27 November 2007, Vol. 468, c. 148-49.]*

*Letter of correction from Yvette Cooper:*

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Buckingham on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 148.

A letter has been sent to the MP and made available in the Library of the House.

The correct answer should have been:

**Yvette Cooper:** The hon. Gentleman knows that I obviously cannot comment on the details of the south-east plan, which is still going through the planning process. However, he will be aware of my frequently stated view that at a time when we face growing pressure from first-time buyers and rising demand for new housing the South East England regional assembly's proposal to cut the level of new housing in the south-east is bonkers. It is not an appropriate position for that regional assembly to have adopted. We need more housing, but I agree with the hon. Gentleman that we need more investment in infrastructure. From my Department alone, we set out proposals to increase the level of infrastructure to £1.7 billion over the next few years; there are proposals from other Departments, too. Today, as part of the Planning Bill, we published details of the community infrastructure levy that will allow local councils to raise additional resources for local infrastructure. I urge the hon. Gentleman and his party to support that proposal so that we have the parks and play areas as well as the new transport systems we need to support new homes for the future.

## CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

### Arts Council of England: Finance

**Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* grant-in-aid and *(b)* National Lottery funding was allocated to the Arts Council England (ACE) in each of the last five years; and how much ACE awarded to brass bands in the same period. [157098]

*[Official Report, 22 October 2007, Vol. 465, c. 36W.]*

*Letter of correction from Margaret Hodge:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to Jeff Ennis the hon. Member for Barnsley, East and Mexborough on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 36W.

The correct answer should have been:

**Margaret Hodge:** This information is shown in the table.

£000

| | *Grant in aid (revenue) allocated to ACE* | *National Lottery allocated to ACE* | *Awards made by ACE to brass bands*[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 289,000 | 178,000 | 178 |
| 2003-04 | 325,000 | 161,000 | 187 |
| 2004-05 | 368,000 | 169,000 | 202 |
| 2005-06 | 412,000 | 171,000 | 211 |
| 2006-07 | 412,000 | 157,000 | 209 |

[1] Figures include both Grant in Aid and National Lottery funding.

A copy of this letter has also been sent to Jeff Ennis for information.

## FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

### Gough Island: Nature Conservation

**Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to protect the native sea bird population on Gough Island. [167238]

*[Official Report, 26 November 2007, Vol. 468, c. 220W.]*

*Letter of correction from Meg Munn:*

An error has been identified in the written answer given to Mr. Andrew Rosindell, the hon. Member for Romford on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 220W (PQ 167238).

The correct answer should have been as follows, reflecting that rats are not a predator of seabirds on Gough Island:

**Meg Munn:** Mice have been identified as the main predator of seabirds on Gough Island. The Overseas Territories Environment Programme, a joint FCO and DFID funded programme, has provided £54,954 to the Tristan da Cunha administration, with technical support being provided by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, to assess the potential for the eradication of these rodents from Gough Island.